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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk June 23, 2013 EAST KENT EDITION Issue no 561

Bike clubs warn "death trap" potholes are putting people off pedal power

The deadly threat to cyclists



Special KoS Report

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

JUST six years after the world's most prestigious cycle race, the Tour de France, took to the streets of the county, cycling clubs are now warning lives are at risk due to the perilous state of Kent's pothole-festooned roads.

The state of our highways has put people off using pedal power – despite the sport's high profile last year following Sir Bradley Wiggins' success in the Tour and the excitement surrounding the London 2012 Olympic Games.

And despite the Tour de France starting next Saturday, many see the poor quality of roads here putting a stick in the spokes of the sport's revival in this county.

Such is the problem, enthusiasts say people are being put off taking to the saddle and previously ardent road cyclists are being forced to use purpose-built, off-road tracks instead of country lanes and public highways.

For workers who use their bikes to get to the office – something many employers are encouraging in this more environmentally-aware era – the state of the road means they take their lives in their hands.

Pat Hill, president of the Kent Cycling Association, which represents 50 clubs in the county, said potholes were a "death trap" and she was frequently hearing of people coming off their bikes because of the poor road conditions.

She warned people's lives were at risk due to the often deep holes which cause cyclists to fall off their bikes.

She said: "We know authorities don't

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ROYAL

Queen to bid 5 Scots farewell

THE Queen is to pay a special visit to the county next week to bid farewell to Canterbury-based battalion the 5 Scots.

She will attend a final parade at Howe Barracks on Friday.

On Tuesday, the battalion will march through the streets to bid the city goodbye after 10 years. **PAGE 12**

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival goes back to basics

MUSIC festival Lounge on the Farm is just a little over a month away and is promising a return to its eclectic roots.

Inside, we speak to the event's founder, Sean Baker, about the event's ups and downs and why it remains a major champion of Kent food and drink. **PAGE 15**

POLICING

Top cop writes just for KoS

CHIEF Constable Ian Learmonth writes an exclusive column inside this weekend's paper as he responds to a damning report pouring doubt on his force's crime recording.

In a candid article, he vows to ensure systems are reviewed and public confidence is restored. **PAGE 36**



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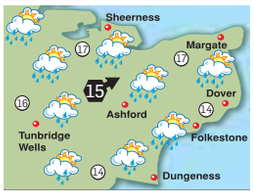


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Weather



TODAY: Sun and heavy showers. Some thunder. Moderate winds. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells. Min temp 10-13C (50-55F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.25	6.7	23.48	6.8
Margate	00.03	4.7	12.22	4.7
St Mary's	05.01	5.6	17.27	5.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 18C	Min 9C
Tuesday	Max 18C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 18C	Min 10C
Thursday	Max 19C	Min 11C
Friday	Max 19C	Min 12C
Saturday	Max 20C	Min 11C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

ROADS

Fears for safety of cyclists

Continued from front page

have much money, but while money is important, lives are even more important. Potholes are the bane of our lives on Kent roads. They cause injuries, they ruin equipment. It's a major problem."

"The potholes put people off. If Kent County Council wants people to take cycling up, then it has got to make the roads better."

With the summer holidays approaching, more people are expected to hit the saddle as families enjoy time off and the – hopefully – sunny weather.

And with the Tour de France starting on June 30, interest is expected to peak.

But Mrs Hill admits she feels nervous when she sees families cycling past her home in Biddenden, near Ashford.

She says: "I see parents with children on the backs of their bikes and I think 'good for them' but it worries me.

"Potholes are a death trap and if you don't notice them it can be dangerous."

Mrs Hill said one of the problems was that a lot of potholes were just patched-up rather than completely repaired.

"If there's a bit left undone, all it takes is a vehicle to come past and rip it back up, particularly lorries," she said.

"It's a waste of money if road teams come out to patch potholes up and then you see them back in a few months."

But it's not just Mrs Hill who is concerned. General secretary of the Meridian Cycling Club, Ray Ransom, said the roads were "very poor".

The club is based in Orpington but members spend much of their time on bike rides across Kent.

Explains Mr Ransom: "Most of our riders are experienced but I worry for those who aren't so used to being out on their bikes. There are a lot of new people cycling ever since Bradley Wiggins won [at the Olympics and Tour de France] last year and that worries me."

But Kent Highways, part of Kent County Council, insists it is doing everything it can to make sure potholes are being fixed – and quickly.

Potholes form when water gets into cracks in the road and then freezes, expanding and making the crack bigger, creating a hole. This is worsened when vehicles then drive over them.

And with one of the coldest winters just behind us, Kent Highways is desperately trying to fill in the holes before the colder months are upon us again.

It seems a never-ending cycle.

KCC cabinet member for transport, and cycling enthusiast, David Brazier, said: "Over the last six months, our highways crews have been working tirelessly on our 'Find and Fix' campaign - where our crews fix every pothole they come across as well as responding to road defects reported to us by members of the public.

"We have also invested an extra £1.15m funding in our roads this year - on top of our existing investment - in a bid to keep us ahead in the battle against potholes.

"I'd like to invite the cycling groups that have spoken to Kent on Sunday to come and talk to us directly.

"I am sure we will be able to ease their concerns and that they will, in turn, be able to help us with our work to improve the county's roads for all road users."

A spokeswoman for tourism group Visit Kent said anything that would deter visitors from coming here was concerning, adding: "We would, however, remind cyclists of the overall welcome and service they can expect in Kent."

In 2007, the Tour de France held its opening stage in the UK, taking in Medway, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford and concluding in Canterbury.

WHAT YOU SAY

In a recent poll on our website, KentNews.co.uk, we asked: **What is the main thing that would deter you from cycling on Kent's roads?**

Danger from speed of traffic
30%

Condition of the county's roads (potholes etc)
27%

Lack of dedicated cycle lanes
16%

Weather
2%

Not being fit enough
4%

All of the above
21%

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH



Top of the Class
June 30
As the school league tables are published, we take a look at those who find themselves top of the class.

Train to Gain
July 7
Looking to get ahead of the rest in pursuit of your dream job or future career? Make this your first port of call.





Convertibles
July 14
Is there a better way to enjoy the summer by putting the roof down and hitting the road? We look at the convertible for you.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Linda's library to start first stand-up archive

University to use late star's life's work to form major new comedy collection

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SEVEN years after her early death, the comedy genius of Linda Smith is set to live on as a major collection of her work forms the basis of the first ever archive of British stand-up comedy, being compiled by academics at the University of Kent.

The star of radio and TV died of ovarian cancer in 2006 after battling the illness, secretly, for three years. She was just 48

A regular on such shows as Have I Got News For You and QI, and BBC Radio 4 programmes Just a Minute, the News Quiz and Sorry, I Haven't a Clue, she was voted Wittiest Living Person in 2002 by listeners of the radio station.

Born in Erith, her partner Warren Larkin this week revealed a near definitive collection of her performances and material has been donated to the University of Kent to form the basis of a new collection which, ultimately, could be put online.

He got in touch with an old friend, Oliver Double, who agreed to make Linda's tapes and papers the cornerstone of a new collection.

As most comics tend to do, Linda had a lot of her work recorded to allow her to review what went well and what went flat.

Her long-term partner Mr Larkin is in the business as a promoter, manager and occasional performer and was always ready with the record button during their 28 years together.

He told KoS: "It was really emotional seeing Linda's work leave in the back of that lorry. I did gulp knowing it was no longer with me. It took forever to gather it all together from the loft.

"But I am also delighted that one day it could all be made available to the public either online or in the university library after being digitised."

Mr Larkin admits he still struggles to watch videos of his partner performing as he finds them too painful – but with the audio he can take solace, adding: "It's all on old cassettes and video – formats that would make playing regularly difficult so it will all need sorting and cataloguing.

"Linda wanted everything taped so she could learn from each performance. Some of them go right back to the 1980s when she was at small clubs in Sheffield, where we were both at uni.

"There is a mountain of material and it's wonderful news that the university is making it all the centrepiece of its new stand-up collection."

Mr Double welcomed the offer with open arms. The head of drama, who teaches a module on stand-up, told this newspaper: "I knew Linda more than (I knew) Warren. I interviewed her for my studies while at Sheffield University.

"Having her complete works is incredible. Usually we just hear the 'best-of' compilations, but this includes off-air work so you can hear how she developed and when things go wonky.

"Ultimately, it would be great if we can get most of this available online, much like the history of cartoons archive the university has, but that is some way in the future.

"We have the time consuming job of going through it all first to see exactly what we have. It is an exciting time."

Picture courtesy of Wayne Larkin





RECORDED: The late Linda Smith and left, pictured with Warren Larkin on holiday in the 1980s

CRIME

Yobs destroy graves

VANDALS destroyed 30 graves in a Chatham cemetery - even setting fire to items left on tombs for lost children.

Headstones were smashed and flowers and toys left by loved ones at the cemetery off Maidstone Road damaged.

Police, who described the attack as "senseless and despicable", believe the yobs attacked the site between 10pm on June 17 and 7.30am the following day.

Anyone with information should call 101.

POLICE

PCC hires RAF exec

A SENIOR officer in the Royal Air Force looks set to be handed the £90,000-a-year role as chief of staff for Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes.

Mike Stepney is currently head of current operations and plans at the RAF, based near High Wycombe. His appointment is set to be confirmed on Wednesday.

DEATH

Tributes to football ace

FRIENDS and fans have been paying tribute to a popular non-league footballer who died recently after a five-year fight with motor neurone disease.

Father-of-two Mark Stanton was just 44 when he passed away at his Folkestone home. He was best known for his career at Ashford Town and also played for Folkestone and Hythe.

EVENT

Stone me! Festival to host bid to break cherry spitting record

IT SOUNDS like the most relaxing of events; an annual cherry festival held amid the orchards and celebrating one of nature's finest fruits.

But if you head down to the Brogdale Cherry Festival, near Faversham, next month you may see an awful lot of spitting.

The good news, however, is that it is all for a good cause as contestants try and write their names into the Guinness Book of Records for spitting cherry stones.

The current record has been held for nine years by Brian 'Young Gun' Krause.

He managed to project a stone with his mouth over a distance of 93ft 6.5in – more than 28 metres.

The American achieved the record at the International Cherry Pit-Spitting Championship at Eau Claire, Michigan, USA, in 2004.

Not happy with that, and away from the strict rules that govern the 'sport', the 35-year-old from Michigan, managed to send one 110ft 4in later in the day, in the freestyle event. But the Guinness Book of Records said that one didn't count as contestants have to remain flat-footed during their spit.



FRUIT: Cherries star at event

So now, visitors to the Brogdale Cherry Festival Weekend, home of the treasured National Fruit Collection, will get the chance to better him.

Not that it's expected anyone will muster enough puff. There are regular attempts at cherry festivals around the world, with national championships in America, New Zealand and Australia.

But Brogdale wants to bring the record to England and is calling on anyone who thinks they have a chance to step up.

Brogdale manager Bernie Cranfield said: "It is the first time we have attempted a world record. As we hold the largest collection of fruit in the world it would be the cherry on top if the title for Cherry Stone Spitting – Greatest Distance was to be won here."

The competition is to be filmed and carried out with the guidance of the Guinness World Records.

This will be Brogdale's sixth annual Cherry Festival showing off its 320 varieties.

The festival is held on the weekend of July 20-21 at Brogdale Farm, Faversham.

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CHARITY

Celebrity duo pay hospice a visit ahead of Music on the Hill festival

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FASHION designer Karen Millen and pop star Peter Andre made a special visit to children's hospice Demelza, in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne, this week as anticipation builds towards a major charity festival next month.



Mr Andre will be one of the headliners at the Music on the Hill festival which takes place in Kings Hill, West Malling, between July 19-21.

He will be joined by a star-studded line-up which includes Jools Holland, McFly, X Factor winner Joe McElderry and Stooshe.

Profits from the event will go towards Demelza and Teens Unite Fighting Cancer - of which Ms Millen is the founder of.

Born and raised in Maidstone, Ms Millen went on to create the hugely successful retail chain in her name, before selling in a multi-million pound deal in 2004.

During their visit, the duo met some of the young people helped at the hospice and posed for photographs with staff, children and families before being taken on a tour of the facilities.

Mr Andre said: "I met some fantastic children and I was blown away by the facilities on offer to children and families."

Tickets for the charity show are currently on sale. See www.musiconthehill.org for details.

REGENERATION

Docks scheme rejected

A MAJOR £650 million redevelopment plan in Chatham has been put on ice after councillors rejected first phase plans for an area dubbed as Chatham Waters.

The ambitious scheme, put forward by developer Peel Land and Property, would see 1,000 homes, a hotel, supermarket and conference centre built on the dockland site.

They will now have to return to the drawing board after Medway Council rejected them.

ENTERTAINMENT

Rick Stein books spot

CELEBRITY chef Rick Stein will be cooking up some interest when he leaps from the TV screens and into the Bluewater shopping complex next month.

With his new BBC TV show charting his travels across India now been screened, he will be at the centre to sign copies of the accompanying book – also called Rick Stein's India.

He appears at Waterstones on July 13 at 1.30pm.



POLICING

Target culture encouraged by PCC is cause of damning report findings, says MP

Ann Barnes finds herself on the defensive once more after report exposes failings in way crime is recorded and MP turns up political pressure

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PRESSURE is mounting on Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes to take responsibility for failings within the force in light of a damning report exposing inaccuracies in crime recording.

Serious concerns were raised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) after inspectors found that one in 10 incidents were not being properly recorded as a crime by Kent Police.

HMIC also found that one in four incidents originally recorded as crimes were wrongly downgraded to 'no crimes', and identified an historic "institutional bias" which meant some officers were pursuing easy-to-solve crimes to boost detection rates rather than those with a greater impact on the public.

PCC Ann Barnes, who commissioned the report after the arrest of five officers last November over alleged manipulation of crime statistics, called the findings "deeply disappointing" and challenged Chief Constable of Kent Police Ian Learmonth at a meeting on Tuesday.

But fingers are now being pointed at Mrs Barnes, with critics saying she should be shouldering some of the blame.

High-profile Conservative Mark Reckless, MP for Rochester and Strood, who sits on the home affairs select committee at Parliament, said it was wrong to "scapegoat" the chief constable.

He said: "I think Ann Barnes needs to put her hand up to take responsibility.

"It would be wrong to scapegoat the chief constable for the historic target-driven culture – he was only appointed in 2010."

Mrs Barnes was, for six years, chair of the Kent Police Authority (KPA) – the body previously in place to scrutinise the force before it was replaced with the elected PCC last year.

She argues that as chair of KPA she did not have the powers now available in her role as PCC to ask for HMIC to investigate crime recording.

She said: "KPA in the past had to accept Kent Police's own figures which, in a report in January 2012, said the force 'almost always recorded crimes accurately': KPA had to accept that, the report was verified by HMIC," she said.

"It surprised me. With new powers as PCC I took action. I asked the specific question: 'Can the public have confidence in Kent's crime figures?'."

It was that question which exposed the failings in crime recording.

But Mr Reckless, a previously outspoken critic of Mrs Barnes, said the previous Labour government and KPA had put too much emphasis on crime levels. This, inevitably, may have pushed some officers to downgrade crime to keep figures artificially low.

He said while Mrs Barnes' new powers as PCC had allowed her to commission the latest report, she should take responsibility for what was exposed due to her constant push for low crime levels while chair of KPA.

He said: "There was so much emphasis on police statistics and officers knew they were judged by them."

Mrs Barnes, however, said there had been a target-driven culture in the county "as long as she could remember".

She said: "Police officers are public servants who have to perform."

She also pointed out Mr Reckless was also on the KPA.

Mr Reckless stressed that he worked to implement Tory party policy while on the KPA.

"I delivered the policy of having elected PCCs," he said.

"One reason we wanted to do this was to stop this target-driven culture. In 2003, I published a policy document for local accountability, electing one person to be responsible and abolishing targets.

"The police should do what the public want. People want to see visible policing, to see action taken when a crime has been reported – they want to feel the police are doing their job, not based on statistics."

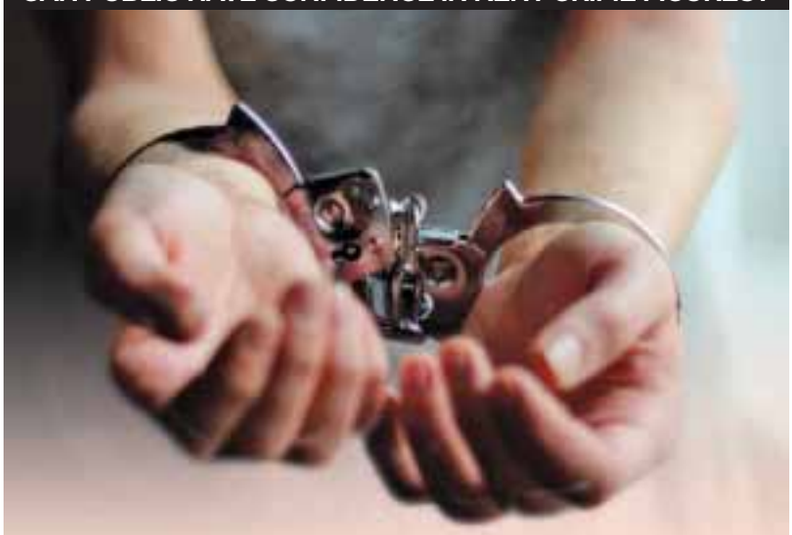
He added: "If people feel the police are doing this, they'll re-elect the PCC."

But will they? Mrs Barnes, who earns £85,000, has hit the headlines in recent months for all the wrong reasons, including the Paris Brown youth commissioner debacle and her decision to appoint a communications advisor with a salary of £70,000.

Mr Reckless said: "I think the mistakes are accumulating. Very serious incidents have

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CAN PUBLIC HAVE CONFIDENCE IN KENT CRIME FIGURES?



IT WAS a simple question by PCC Ann Barnes but it unearthed shocking results, prompting calls for a UK-wide inquiry into how police forces record crime.

HMIC's report – based on a sample of 303 cases – found the force is under-recording approximately one in every 10 crimes, with some victims not getting the service they deserve.

It also highlighted the process used to 'no crime' – when a crime is declared not to be a crime – was incorrect in some of the cases reviewed.

It pointed out "institutional bias" towards chasing numeric targets by solving easier crimes, such as people smoking cannabis or shoplifters, rather than crimes which may have a greater impact on people in Kent.

But it stressed there had been no corruption within the force.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth said it was not acceptable, but said improvements were already being made. He stressed people whose crimes had been wrongly classified had been contacted.

He said: "Nine out of 10 crimes recorded correctly is not good enough and the public needs to be reassured."

■ **Turn to the comment page for an exclusive article by the chief constable.**







MAKING WAVES: MP Mark Reckless (left) blames Ann Barnes and not Chief Constable Learmonth

happened on her watch and the people of Kent will be concerned."

But Mrs Barnes is sticking to her guns that this latest action in commissioning the crime recording report is making sure the police are accountable, transparent and open.

"I'm doing what I'm supposed to do; this is what I'm here for," she said. "I have to hold the force to account. I could have commissioned this report and not said anything to anyone, but even though it was uncomfortable, I made it public."

She stressed that the 'no crime' statistic was broadly in line nationally, but the one in 10 figure was a shock, particularly as the January 2012 report had said the force "almost always" recorded accurately.

"I've got to have time to digest this and not just make a knee-jerk decision on the action I need to take," added Mrs Barnes.

She stressed improvements had been made already by the force, but that she would be asking for HMIC to assess the situation again in December.

The inspection was carried out using a new mechanism by HMIC which has sparked a nationwide drive to check every force.

Criminologist Marian FitzGerald, from the University of Kent, said the pressure to get crime down and to show an increase in detection rates had exposed the perverse effects on Kent, but she warned it would not be the only force.

"The first thing we need to do is find out what is the honest level of crime," she said.

"PCCs should seize the moment – we want to see an honest account. Stop some of this pressure from politicians and the Home Office about bringing down crime. The public know the police can't perform miracles."

Kent Police Federation chair, Ian Pointon, said for too long the federation had raised concerns about the culture of chasing targets.

He explained: "We have also argued this was not about individual police officer actions; this was not about corruption or wrongdoing, this was about a performance culture within Kent Police. We welcome HMIC's recognition of this.

"Work is already under way to change the performance culture within the force, to focus more keenly on the quality of service delivery as opposed to target chasing."

TRANSPORT

London train stations shut

TRAVELLERS planning to use rail services this weekend in or out of Kent are being warned that one of London's major terminals will be shut on Sunday.

Due to planned engineering work, no train services will run to or from Charing Cross and Waterloo East stations.

As a result, train services will operate as scheduled to and from London Bridge before terminating at Cannon Street.

Train operators Southeastern also advise those passengers planning to travel on the last train services from London, that the services will depart from London Bridge 15 minutes later than scheduled.



COURTS

Cigarette cabbie jailed

A TAXI driver from Gillingham has been jailed for attempting to smuggle more than 3.6 million cigarettes into the UK and evading £925,000 excise duty and tax.

Baljinder Singh was transferring cigarettes from a sea container into two vans at an industrial unit in Tilbury, Essex, when he was caught by the Metropolitan Police who were carrying out a surveillance operation.

He was jailed this week for five years.

CRIME

Head-butting burglar

A BURGLAR who head-butted a homeowner and grabbed him by the throat after being caught in the act has been jailed for four years.

Daniel Hedgeley, 20, of no fixed abode had been found in the house in St Luke's Road, Maidstone at around 8.30pm on April 16, and fought to escape. But with the help of a neighbour he was captured.

He also pleaded guilty to a role in another burglary and two counts of handling stolen goods.

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CULTURE

Blow as bid fails to make final shortlist

But those behind the ambitious city campaign vow to ensure spirit generated lives on

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk



ORGANISERS of the failed bid for East Kent to be crowned UK City of Culture 2017 insist the momentum it created will not be lost.

As one of 11 bidding to reach the final four shortlist, East Kent – a combined effort of Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone councils, spearheaded by Kent County Council and using the tag line A City Imagined – discovered on Wednesday it had not been selected.

While the news will come as a blow to those who backed the bid, the team behind it say they are determined to build on what has been achieved thus far.

The steering committee will meet again on July 2 to discuss what they can do next.

Chris Hespe, KCC's head of culture and sport, speaking on behalf of the bid team, said: "We are all hugely disappointed.

"We have always believed East Kent has a powerful case, one that challenges conventions and encourages people to think again about an area they thought they knew.

"Nonetheless the very process of bidding has been a victory in itself – helping us to realise the power of culture to inspire, to excite and to bind the people of east Kent. This spirit will long outlive our disappointment.

"Regardless of today's outcome, we remain committed to ensuring that 2017 will be a very special year for east Kent culture – and we will be spending the next few weeks deciding which elements of our proposed programme we will be taking forward."

KCC insists only time was spent on the bid and that any costs involved were picked up by the organisations who supported the campaign.

Phil Redmond, chair of the independent advisory panel which is judging the awards for the Department for Media, Culture and Sport, said: "It was incredibly difficult to decide on a shortlist as all the bids recognised the power of culture to bring about social change and offered innovative and interesting programmes.

"In the end, the panel thought the four shortlisted cities offered plans that were ambitious, realistic and would not only deliver for their communities, but would also maintain the momentum created around the success of Derry-Londonderry."

East Kent had always been an outsider to secure the hotly contested crown. Bookmakers had put its odds as long as 16-1.

The candidates going through to the next round are Hull, Leicester, Dundee and Swansea Bay. Other unlucky bidders were: Aberdeen, Chester, Hastings and Bexhill-on-Sea, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Southampton and Southend on Sea.

WHAT IS THE UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017?

Inspired by Liverpool's success in winning the right to become the European City of Culture 2008, then culture secretary Andy Burnham announced plans were under way to create a UK-only version.

Liverpool had seen a major influx of visitors and it is estimated some £735 million was pumped into the local economy as a direct consequence.

A panel was set up in 2009 to consider the proposal, chaired by Grange Hill and Brookside creator Phil Redmond, who had been influential in securing Liverpool's success.

It was eventually agreed the status should be awarded once every four years – beginning in 2013.

Winning the right to host the event will herald a major injection of publicity and investment, as well as the opportunity to stage some major cultural events, such as the Turner Prize and the Man Booker Prize.

The first city to secure the title was Derry-Londonderry for this year. It predicts success will allow it to generate nearly 3,000 tourism jobs alone by 2020.

The winner of the 2017 contest will be announced later this year.



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EDUCATION

Fresh twist in saga of grammar school 'satellite' as rival throws hat in ring

But campaigners fear it could delay opening

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

EDUCATION chiefs at a Kent grammar have denied their late bid to establish the long-awaited Sevenoaks 'satellite' school is a ploy to "derail" plans.

A fresh proposal was unexpectedly lodged by the Weald of Kent Grammar School in Tonbridge, putting them head-to-head with Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone in the battle to set up what will be a grammar annexe in Sevenoaks.

Currently, any child passing the Kent Test in Sevenoaks has to commute to the nearby towns of Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells to access a grammar school – a situation which adds to the considerable strain on selective schools in west Kent.

Kent County Council bosses were left scratching their heads, admitting that the school's bid had come "out of the blue", particularly since the Tonbridge school had pulled out of talks earlier this year.

KCC instead officially announced in March it was working with Invicta Grammar's sponsor, Valley Invicta Academies Trust, with a view to pushing forward with the satellite plan.

Campaigners fighting for grammar provision in Sevenoaks have warned this latest move by the Weald of Kent (WoK) is just a ploy to kill off Invicta's new satellite grammar school proposal to stop the "competitive threat". A claim denied.

The Sevenoaks Grammar School Campaign Group said: "Weald of Kent has 1,126 pupils on its roll, of which 680 are from Sevenoaks district, which is the largest number from Sevenoaks in any grammar school.

"Consequently, WoK has the most to lose in terms of future pupils from an Invicta Grammar-run satellite school."

The group argues that Weald of Kent has taken no account of the wishes of parents and children. It also states the school made no mention of the plan at a recent meeting of west Kent head teachers and KCC had been kept in the dark.

"These are shameful tactics and not worthy of an educational establishment," said the campaign group.

But a spokeswoman for Weald of Kent denied an underhand strategy, explaining: "We had been speaking to KCC for quite some time and were always interested."

But she said the initial plan floated by education chiefs was for a four-form entry satellite school and not six, as the Weald of Kent preferred, leading them to pull out.

"When we saw the consultation proposed by Invicta Grammar was for a six-form entry we started looking at launching a consultation ourselves.

"We sympathise with Sevenoaks parents and understand they may see this as something which could delay their plans going ahead, but I don't think that is going to be the case. We're planning a consultation and we're pretty confident it won't cause any delay.

"At the end of the day, we want to provide Tonbridge and Sevenoaks with grammar education."

She stressed she understood the "alarm" the decision may have caused but said things were moving forward and they would be entering dialogue with people soon.

"A consultation is imminent. It will allow people to weigh up the options."

KCC told KoS they were surprised by the turnaround and said the Invicta proposal was already "far down the line".

KCC cabinet member for education, Roger Gough, said: "We have been working closely with Valley Invicta Academies Trust in recent months and have sent an initial proposal to the Department for Education – and a formal application is expected by the department by the end of July.

"While the success of any proposal is in the hands of the secretary of state, it would need the support of the county council.

"Discussions with the Weald of Kent Grammar School during 2012 concluded with the school sending a letter to KCC in January this year, stating that the governors would not be pursuing an interest."

THE STORY SO FAR

Sevenoaks parents have been pushing for a grammar school in the district for years, launching a high profile petition which triggered a debate at County Hall.

In what was viewed as an historic breakthrough, the green light was given for new grammar provision in Sevenoaks in the form of an annexe.

The law forbids the opening of new grammars, but changes made by the Government will enable one to open in the town as a 'satellite' of existing girls' and boys' grammar schools.

Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone and Kent County Council announced earlier this year they were working together on the proposal, with Invicta proposing to act as the host school for the satellite.

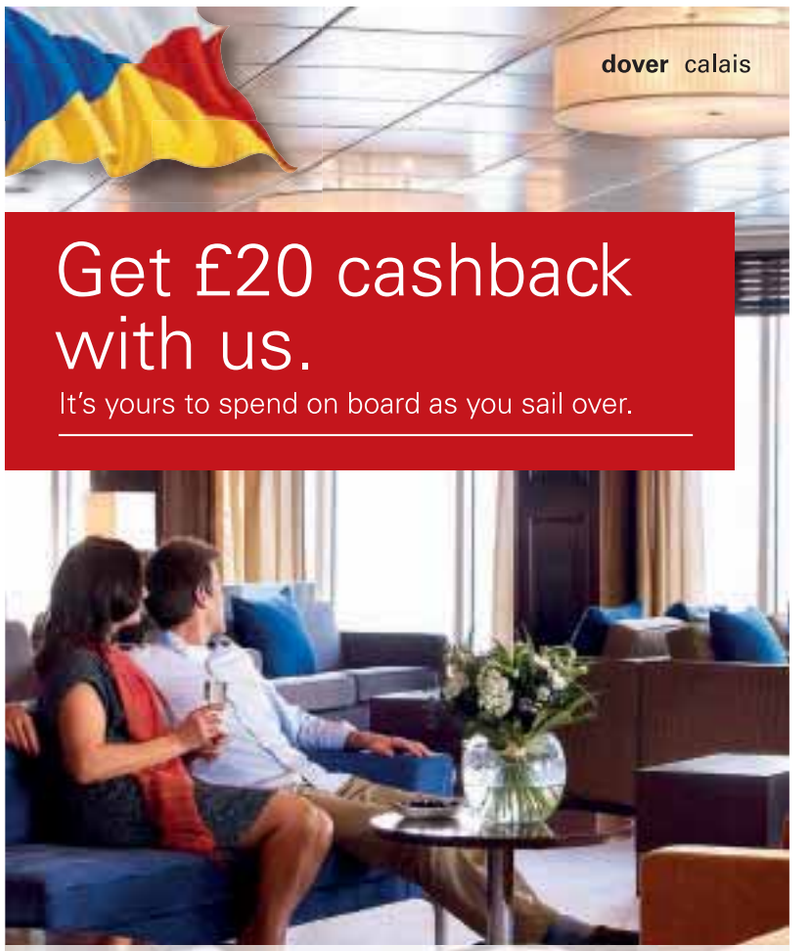
The old Wilderness School site in Sevenoaks was earmarked for the potential development of the annexe.

The KCC-owned land is currently leased to the Knole Academy, but due to be vacated in 2015 once its £18.3 million extension is built, at which time the Sevenoaks Grammar School would open its doors.

But the Department for Education stepped in saying the Wildernesse site should instead be used for the planned Trinity Free School, which is due to open in September.



COMMUTE: At present, children in Sevenoaks have to travel out of town to attend a grammar school



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HEARTFELT MESSAGE: Byrne was in Scotland when the drama unfolded

HEALTH

Superbike champion reveals wife's emergency life-saving operation after hospital 'error'

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TRIPLE British Superbike champion Shane 'Shakey' Byrne said his wife nearly died after a private hospital allegedly left pads of gauze inside of her following a major operation.

Mother-of-two Petra Byrne had to be rushed into the Medway Maritime while her husband, 36, was in Scotland last week preparing for the latest rounds in the motorcycling championship.

Only moments before the race started did he know she was okay after she rang from her hospital bed to wish him well.

Mrs Byrne had undergone a hysterectomy at a private hospital elsewhere several weeks ago, but continued to complain of pain.

Despite reassuring her husband she was fine, Mrs Byrne's health forced her to remain at home and miss being by Shakey's side at a race meeting for the first time since they started dating eight years ago.

Fearing complications, the motorcycling ace asked best man at their wedding, Chris Lambourne, to take his wife back to the private hospital to speak to the surgeon.

But after her worries were dismissed, Mr Lambourne became increasingly concerned and took her to a local GP who immediately sent her to the local Gillingham hospital.

She was rushed into theatre and underwent a potentially life-saving operation, remaining in hospital under observation this week.

At his home on Sheppey this week, Shakey, who won the championship last year, and also in 2003 and 2008, told KoS: "She could have died.



CLOSE CALL: Petra Byrne had surgery

"She had the hysterectomy three weeks ago and complained about a lot of pain afterwards.

"And Petra doesn't complain. She is as hard as nails, bless her. She kept saying 'I don't feel right' and I told her to go back to the hospital.

"Eventually she agreed and was going there on the Thursday before the last races. I had left for the track in Scotland on the Wednesday.

"Chris took her to the hospital, saw her surgeon and he didn't even check her or do any tests.

"Chris didn't like the look of her and refused to drive her home, and they ended up at the Medway, where they took one look at her, rushed her in and did a load of tests.

"She had multiple collections of blood stuck in her abdomen that would not come out naturally.

"They kept her in trying to understand why she was so poorly, then performed a CT scan which confirmed these blood collections.

"The hospital tried to flush the blood out of her, but it didn't work.

"On Monday morning she went to the toilet and some gauze or swabs that had been used in operation theatres had been left inside of her and she passed them naturally.

"Tests are now being carried out by the Medway Maritime to ensure they were not from them, and as soon as they come back and can say it is 100 per cent not down to them, the private hospital and surgeon that did the operation will be getting a letter from our solicitor.

"Medway told Chris that had he not insisted on taking her in, the infection would have got so bad it would have stopped her heart.

"When you hear that from a doctor you know it's not an exaggeration.

"When I think a surgeon left my wife like that for three weeks, it is an absolute disgrace. The terrifying thing is that had it not been for Chris, she would have sat here and it would have got worse and worse."

As the drama unfolded, Mrs Byrne rang her husband as he prepared to race at the notoriously tough Knockhill circuit, to wish him well just after going under the knife.

He went on to win both races and put himself in pole position to win the championship again.

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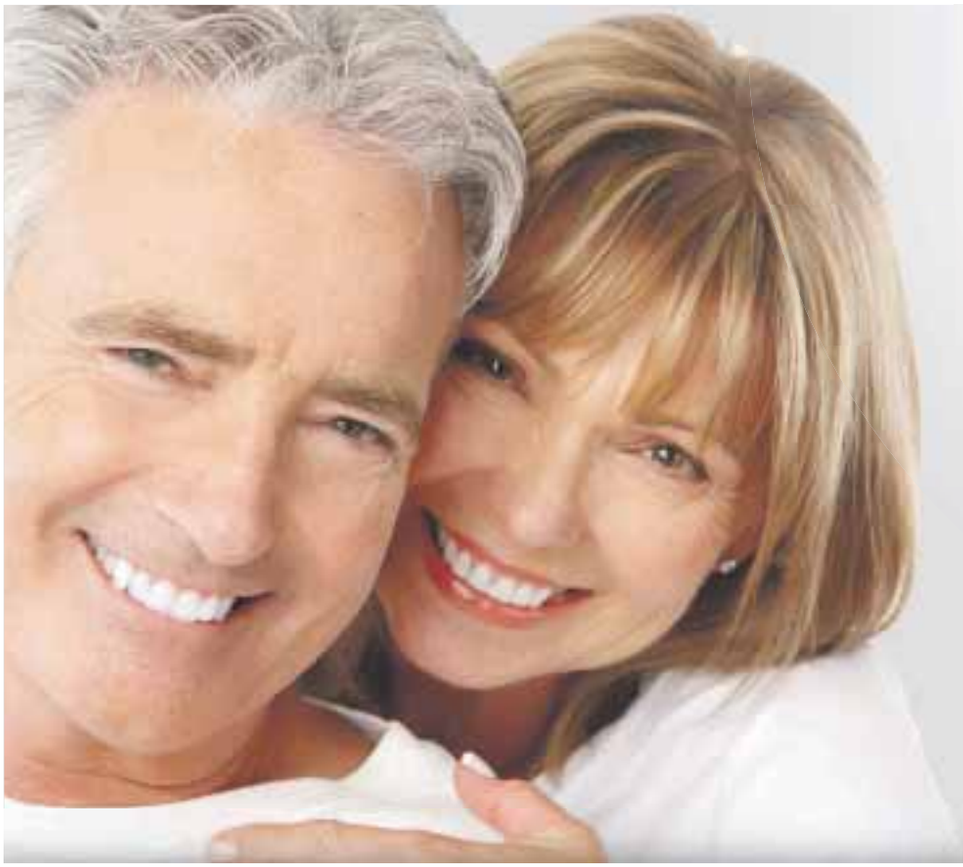
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CRIME

While boy distracts disabled man, thief searches his home

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A HEARTLESS crook who used a young child as a decoy to allow him to enter a home and rob a disabled man, is being hunted by police.

The youngster, who is believed to be aged between nine and 11, knocked on the door of the victim's house in Wyvern Close in Dartford on Friday, June 7, to ask if he could go into the back garden to retrieve a toy.

After searching the garden with the child, the 62-year-old victim went upstairs and found a man in his bedroom rifling through his belongings.

He shouted at the man and the child who then left the property.

Items including a Rotary Monza watch and £400 in cash were stolen.

Detectives have released an e-fit of the man they believe can help them with their enquiries.

The adult suspect is described as being white, aged between 35 and 40, and of stocky build. He has brown hair, was around 5ft 8in and was wearing a white t-shirt and dark trousers.



E-FIT: Do you know this man?

Anyone with any information about this incident, or who can identify the man pictured, is asked to contact DC Murray Tester at Kent Police on 101, quoting crime reference XY/017337/13, or call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



EVENT

Royal visitor

THE Queen is to pay a special visit to the county on Friday to bid farewell to troops as they prepare to leave Canterbury's Howe Barracks.

As a result of defence cuts, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (5 Scots) will be leaving the city it has called home for the last 10 years.

5 Scots will be reducing from a battalion to a single Public Duties Incremental Company (PDIC), to be known as Balaklava Company (BKA Coy). It will be moving back to Scotland, where it will perform mainly ceremonial duties.

The Queen will be joined by fellow civic guests and families of serving members of the battalion in a final parade on Friday, June 28.

Although the parade will not be open to the public, big crowds are expected to line the streets on Tuesday as 5 Scots conduct a farwell parade through the streets of Canterbury.

The parade will step off from Canterbury West station at 10.40am with bayonets fixed, swords drawn and colours flying to the sound of the battalion pipes and drums and accompanied by the regimental mascot Cruachan IV, a Shetland Pony.

Over the last decade the battalion has deployed to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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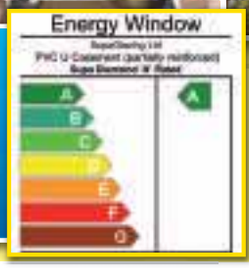
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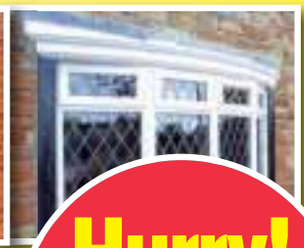


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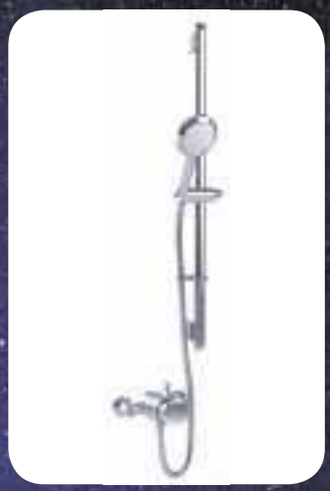
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ENTERTAINMENT

Festival founder returns to family values after investors' pitch struck wrong chord

As festival time looms **Joe Bill** meets Sean Baker, the man behind Lounge on the Farm



WHILE other music festivals have come and gone – shot down by the double-whammy of the poor economy and ever-increasing competition – one event has remained a regular highlight in the county's calendar.

But despite its survival, it would be wrong to think Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm – a festival which revels in its very Kentish roots and wide demographic appeal – has endured the recent storms completely unscathed.

Now in its eighth year, last year's event was very much make-or-break after problems in 2011.

A handful of petty crimes and issues with security and under-age drinking made for plenty of negative headlines. There was talk of the licence being withdrawn and relations with both the police and local council became strained.

Twelve months later, and the 2012 event was a far smoother affair as issues were ironed out.

"It's all really good now," explains founder Sean Baker. "The council is behind us and this is the first year that – after reapplying for the licence – we had no objections from anyone."

But the disappointing weather kept many from turning up and the event sold no more than three quarters of its 10,000 ticket capacity.

The increase in numbers had been introduced the year before, influenced by experienced investors who perhaps saw the festival's working farm site as too similar to Glastonbury to miss such an opportunity to push it forward.

But 2013 will have a different feel and sense of achievement.

Mr Baker said: "We have had lots of internal changes this year. We had investors come on board in 2010, and some of those have now left. They'd been driving the dynamics of the festival and the feel of it, so we are back in the

Continued on page 16

OFF KEY: Sean Baker has parted company with several of the investors after he felt Lounge of the Farm had lost its original appeal

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Continued from page 15

driving seat again this time."

The event takes place on Merton Farm in Canterbury, the stages and tents built around the cow sheds and grazing land it takes over every summer.

Set up in 2006 by Mr Baker and his friends, they had the vision of promoting Kentish music and creativity – something he felt had been lost a little in the last two years.

He said: "Any business – and especially festivals – need investment to take it to the next level. When these particular investors came on board they had a vision of what they wanted to do, which was different from ours.

"To be quite honest, half of the investors hadn't even been to the festival before. So they put money in and then said 'this is way you should go with it'. And that is not what we are; Lounge is different."

The split came to a head in January this year when Mr Baker announced his intention of going in a different direction.

He explains: "Our main investor is still involved; he loves the festival and really gets it and said it wasn't working with the other guys.

"Most of it was about music policy, what type of bands and what type of DJs they wanted.

"When they [the investors] came in we were at a really nice level of 5,000-6,000 people... then we jumped to 10,000. And it changed the dynamics, it made us like all the other festivals and we didn't start out to be like that.



"We are aiming to get the festival back to how it was in 2010, with lots of families and variations of music."

In recent years, Lounge has proved a fertile ground for budding superstars.

Last year Jake Bugg and Bastille were hidden down the bill, while some inspired foresight had secured Emeli Sande as headliner just weeks before she performed in front of a global TV audience of billions at the Olympic Games' Opening Ceremony.

This year, Soul II Soul, Seasick Steve and Jessie Wares take pole position on the main stage.

But as ever, ticket sales depend very much on the weather, and so far the summer has been gloomy. However, with Glastonbury next weekend, Lounge can expect a surge in interest.

Mr Baker said: "In terms of ticket sales, we are on the same level as we were last year – which isn't bad.

"Lots of festivals are struggling, from V Festival downwards really; everybody is 30 per cent behind on sales. So we are holding our own.

"But we are different from other festivals, we are very much Kent based. Around 80 per cent of people who come to the event are from Kent."

And making sure the cash generated by such a large event stays within the county is a pre-requisite when Mr Baker looks for new avenues of revenue.

He said: "Our mission when we started out was to use local suppliers, rather than getting big trucks coming down from London or wherever, getting paid and then driving off with all the cash.

"Our idea remains to make sure the money stays in the county and that Kent benefits from that.

"All of our food comes from within a 20-mile radius of the farm. Even though we have spread our wings a little bit on traders – like street food specialists from London – they still have to buy their produce from the local area when they come in.

"Other festivals do that now too, but we were the first."

It is, perhaps, fortunate that one of the UK festival industry's major event coordinators are local too.

The Event Umbrella firm, based in Whitstable, was hired last year and continues to oversee the nitty gritty of the event's organisation.

Mr Baker added: "In the past the whole weekend was done by the four of us who started Lounge; booking, organising and running the festival at the weekend.

"Event Umbrella takes a lot of pressure off and it makes the event a lot more slick. So it's great having them involved."

■ **Lounge on the Farm takes place at Merton Farm, Canterbury, from July 26-28.**

CLEAR PLAYING FIELD FOR LOUNGE

ONE less thing for Lounge on The Farm organisers to worry about is the threat posed by other festivals this year.

The Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood collapsed after running into financial problems.

It attempted to return this summer with a scaled-down event similar in size to that of Lounge. But poor ticket sales forced organisers to pull the plug.

"Yeah, it annoyed me when they came down to our level," Mr Baker admitted, "but it is not the first time it has happened.

"You know, we have been going eight years now. We have seen a lot of festivals come and go – so we are tough. We take it on the chin and don't let it affect us.

"The people who went there really wanted to see the huge names. We're not about that.

"But it doesn't matter if you book Bob Dylan or Prince, you are not going to sell out at the minute, and that is what happened to him."



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CRIME

Drivers told to toe the line as cops get tough with drink and drugs

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AN AMERICAN style road-side test will be adopted by police this summer as they look to crack down on drivers under the influence of drugs.

Motorists suspected by police to be taking to the road with drugs in their system can be asked to walk along a straight line heel-to-toe or by stand on one leg and count to 30.

The Field Impairment Test (FIT) will be implemented by Kent Police during the summer months, targeting revellers who may have been drinking or taking drugs in the evenings.

Roads officer Sgt Hannah Brown said: "It is very similar to the American sobriety test. It's along those lines but designed for drug impairment rather than alcohol and we have been trained to do it on the street.

"There are a number of tests that look at your balance, stability and ability to follow instructions. It looks at your ability to estimate time and there is the walk along the line heel-to-toe walk. We also see whether you can touch your nose with your fingers and we measure the size of your pupils.

"There are about seven tests that you have to go through and at the end of it the score you get in each test can depend on whether you pass or fail and whether you come into custody."

The roadside checks also use the Romberg test where the driver is asked to stand with their head tilted back and count to 30. This will assess their balance and judgement of time passing. Counting too quickly or too slowly could be a sign of drug use and if you've had too much to drink, you might sway or raise your head or your arms.

Sgt Brown adds: "If we suspected they are driving under the influence of drugs, then we will use the Field Impairment Test, and if they fail that, they will be arrested and taken into custody where the doctor will examine them and take a blood sample."

The campaign has come just as a number of European countries including France have begun to re-think the way they take on drink and drug drivers.

Last summer, French authorities made it law for motorists to carry with them two breathalyser kits so they can test themselves in case they are over the legal limit for alcohol but also to be used if the driver is stopped by police. Anyone not having them faced a fine. But problems rolling the system out led to authorities suspending the scheme earlier this year.

So could such a step work here?

A spokesman for the Association of British Drivers doesn't believe the French idea would take off in the UK.

Terry Hudson, from Swalecliffe near Whitstable, said: "If you could produce a very accurate breathalyser then perhaps yes. But it could be misleading. Motorists may drink up to the limit and then get in their car. However, if the alcohol then soaks further into their blood stream, it can push them over the limit.

"I think the system we have is better because we have to be more conscious and aware of what we are drinking."



SUMMER CRACKDOWN YIELDS 110 ARRESTS

More than 100 people have been arrested in just three weeks as part of the summer crackdown on drink and drug driving.

In total, some 110 motorists have been nabbed after they were stopped by police and found to be driving under the influence.

It forms part of a countywide enforcement initiative of static road checks throughout the summer months.

Along with Christmas, summer is traditionally the time people take risks at the wheel.

Officers are breath testing motorists who have committed traffic offences or who they suspect of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Sgt Hannah Brown, said: "People who drink alcohol or take drugs before getting behind the wheel of a vehicle are selfish and have no regard for their own life or other people's."

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ENTERTAINMENT

After The Voice, budding star Joseph is hoping Sir Tom will help fulfil his dream

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

HE WOWED the judges on hit BBC TV talent show The Voice, and now Joseph Apostol is set to put the disappointment of missing out on a place in the final behind him with the release of his debut album.

The 21-year-old from Gillingham, won a legion of fans with his soulful performances on the programme and is now looking to further his career in music after failing to secure enough public votes in last weekend's semi-final.

And he is keeping his fingers crossed that superstar Sir Tom Jones could help him out.

Speaking to KoS this week, he said: "My plan is to make my album now.

"I have got management and I'm going to meet up with them soon and talk about the future in terms of creating my own music."

The Filipino youngster, who arrived in England with his mother when he was just 10-years-old, could also be looking to take a break from his studies at MidKent College to concentrate on his flourishing career.

He added: "I'm not great at studying and I really want to focus on my music now. I want to stay in music, this is the career I want to go for. The chance to study will be there forever, but this is what I really want, and I will work hard for it."

A former pupil of Chatham's St John Fisher Catholic School, Mr Apostol is also hopeful his mentor on the show – Sir Tom Jones – will assist.

He said: "I think Sir Tom will try to help us all. He hasn't said anything, but I think he will.

"I got on with him really well, he is such an amazing guy and he likes the way I sing, so we shall see."

And as for the show, the singer has no regrets in not winning.

He added: "Everything happens for a reason, and what I did in The Voice was a big achievement for me anyway."





AMAZING: Joseph Apostol (left) hopes mentor Sir Tom Jones (right) will help him forge a new career in music industry

Callum in Big Brother

One of the contestants in the Big Brother house this year is a sports coach from Maidstone.

Callum Knell, 28, teaches football to youngsters in the town, was a pupil at Maidstone Grammar School and worked as a lifeguard at the town's leisure centre.

If he wins the reality TV show he'll have been in the house for 80 days.

And he's not the only Kent link. The famous Geordie voice of Big Brother is Marcus Bentley who lives in Canterbury.



LOCK IN: Callum Knell in TV show





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AWARDS

Queen gifts Kent's great and good in honours list

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archcant.co.uk







RECOGNITION: Sarah Dunnett, Stephen Grix and Toby Sargent all received OBEs

DOZENS of the county's residents will be recognised at Buckingham Palace later this year after being named in this year's Queen's birthday honours list.

John Atkins, from Ashford, was one of three Kent people awarded a a CBE – Commander of the British Empire – for his services to education.

He is chief executive of the Bromley-based Kemnal Academies Trust which oversees a host of schools across the county and the south east.

Also receiving a CBE was Faversham's Dr Ruth McKernan who, as senior vice-president of science group Pfizer, was recognised for her services to business and innovation.

Dover-based regional director at the UK Border Force, Paul Morgan, was also handed a CBE for his services to border safety and security.

Among those given an OBE – Order of the British Empire – were former Metropolitan Police commander, Robert Broadhurst, from West Wickham. He received the gong for his services to public order policing during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Another OBE recipient was Department of Culture, Media and Sport's (DMCS) news chief Toby Sargent who was commended for services to government communications.

Mr Sargent, from Hayes, said: "I got a letter from the Cabinet Office five weeks ago. I assumed at the time it was some sort of standard note about changes to the pension entitlement, and didn't open it for a couple of days."

The communications chief has worked for the DCMS since it was formed in 1992, and finally opened the letter telling him of his new title.

He admitted: "I was breathless with excitement, and just so proud and delighted. You are sworn to secrecy, so the following five weeks were torture. It's by far the high point in my career."

Edenbridge's Richard Boulter was also awarded an OBE for his role with the Department for International Development and services to reconstruction in Afghanistan, as was chairman of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, Sarah Dunnett, for her services to employment relations since taking her position in 2001.

She said: "I had a letter in May, saying it was in the strictest confidence and asking if I would accept the award. I was thrilled, but very surprised. But I heard nothing more until my name was published."

Mrs Dunnett's husband threw her a surprise party to celebrate the honour at their home in Sevenoaks at the weekend.

She added: "I love my job because of the people I work with, and I would like the staff in particular to feel they are part of that honour."

MidKent College principal Stephen Grix, from Higham, was given a OBE for services to further education, 30 years after studying bricklaying at the college.

Mr Grix, who rejoined MidKent College in 2005, said: "I had a tough time at school and left at 15 with no formal qualifications, but thanks to further education I was able to build a career that eventually led me to where I am today."

The winners should hear in the coming weeks when they will receive their official titles.

■ **For more on Mr Grix turn to our education and training page, within the business section.**

CHARITY

Teen meets heroes Metallica

A TEENAGER from Faversham has seen a dream fulfilled after he met rock legends Metallica.

Oliver Mangion, 17, was born with a rare genetic condition that seriously affects his limbs and kidneys.

He has had more than 40 operations and both legs have been amputated.

But the Starlight Children's Foundation, which works with seriously ill youngsters, flew him to Detroit to meet his idols and even join the band on stage during a live show.



COMMUNITY

Miniature railway back up and running as public dig deep to defy crooks

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Mote Park miniature railway, crippled after scrap metal thieves tore up a 120-foot length of the line, is back on track.

The team that runs the popular attraction was left stunned by the sickening theft, but a wave of publicity has led to the public doing what it does best – coming to the rescue and providing the £300 or so to repair the 30p-a-ride service.

The Maidstone Model Engineering Society said: "Thanks to the generosity of the public we have now received sufficient donations to cover the cost of the materials to replace the missing track.

"We therefore feel it is only right to turn down any further offers from people who wish to send money at this time.

"We are working as quickly as we can to restore the track so we can resume our normal Sunday afternoon rides to the public.

"This does entail a lot of work as so much damage has been done to the track bed when the track was torn from the fixings.

"We are running a restricted service on Sunday afternoons until the work is complete and there will be a donation box at the station for anyone having a ride who wishes to give a little extra."

The track crew say they will be up and running properly very soon.

One of the members, Sue Parham, wife of club secretary Martin and mum of chairman Tom, told us: "We couldn't believe this happened.

"I have to say the public was amazing and very generous. Money was turned away because we just want to cover our costs. We do this because we enjoy it and enjoy sharing our hobby with other people. We do not want to make profit.

"The aluminium track can be bought and some of our members have some track so we have used that to keep the costs down. They also donated their time as well as materials.

"Laying track is very specialised and only a couple of our members are able to do it, so we had to turn away the very generous offers of help.

"The team had to tear up all the remaining track from the section that was stolen and relay it all, including the sleepers."

There are three rails as the club runs different gauges depending on which locomotive is used.

The thieves stole two sections of rail making a total of 240ft of track to be replaced.

Police are still hunting the thieves.



LINING UP: Mote Park's popular miniature railway was stripped of track by scrap metal thieves

CRIME

Hunt for man who tried to snatch baby in park

POLICE are hunting a man who allegedly attempted to snatch a child in a pushchair in Great Lines Heritage Park in Gillingham.

The child's mother has claimed the man approached her, took hold of the pushchair and told her to "let go".



She kept hold of it and shouted at the man, who ran away. The child was uninjured and police are treating it as an isolated incident.

It reportedly took place between 6.50pm and 7pm last Friday, June 14.

Police said it is unclear what the man's intention was, but want to trace him.

He is described as having pale skin, with a droopy nose and a lazy left eye. He is thought to have a rash on his neck and was wearing a white T-shirt and black leather jacket.

Detectives have released this e-fit image of a man they believe could help them with their enquiries. Anybody with any information is asked to call Kent Police on 101, quoting crime reference XY/18204/13, or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

A FORMER GP has been jailed for 11 years after he was found guilty of 10 counts of indecent assaults on female patients.

Navin Naran Zala, 63, of Marling Way, Gravesend, was convicted this week of the crimes which took place during the 1980s and 1990s.

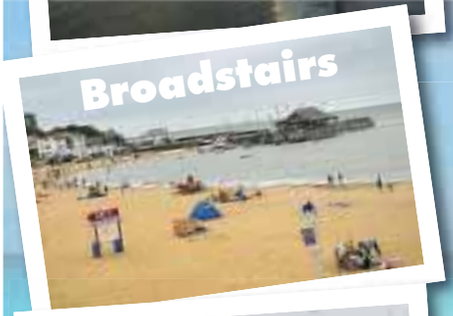
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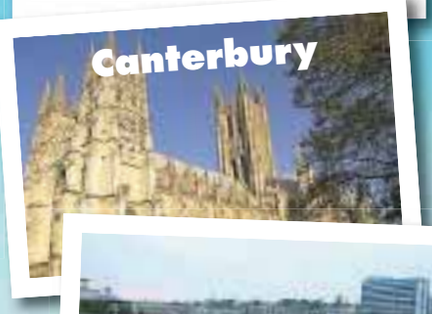
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COMMENT

Joined up care is the best medicine

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt has announced that relieving pressure on accident and emergency is one of the biggest operational challenges facing the NHS. Here, **Lesley Strong**, deputy chief executive and director of adult services for Kent Community Health NHS Trust, explains what the trust is doing to help...

IT didn't come as a surprise to many of us working in the NHS that relieving pressure on accident and emergency departments is crucial for the future well-being of the NHS.

There are many reasons why demand for emergency treatment is increasing; an ageing population, a rise in the number of people with dementia, plus seasonal illnesses such as the winter vomiting bug, are all playing a part.

The solution is not an easy one, but at Kent Community Health NHS Trust (KCHT) we are working hard to come up with innovative alternatives to accident and emergency attendance; treating people outside of hospital and in the community.

Across Kent, we have seven minor injury units and a walk-in centre, staffed by specialist minor injury nurses, who can treat illnesses as well as minor injuries such as cuts and bruises, broken bones, strains and sprains, stings and minor allergic reactions.

Our community nurses visit people in their own homes; supporting them to keep fit and well, whether they have long-term conditions like heart disease or a respiratory condition such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

We were one of the first trusts in the country to trial Telehealth, which allows patients to beam their pulse, blood sugar and oxygen levels daily to a community matron for monitoring so changes are picked up quickly and treated before they need to go to hospital. This system is now being rolled out nationally.

Working alongside our community nurses are our intermediate care and rapid response teams, made up of nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and rehabilitation assistants.

Our rapid response teams in west Kent will respond within two hours of a call when someone needs assistance at home, for example after a fall, but doesn't need an ambulance. Working closely with South East Coast Ambulance over the past year, this has prevented 37,897 hospital admissions.

Mr Hunt said one of the solutions to reducing A&E pressure is by "better joining up" health and social care.

We are already working hard on this. Teams of staff from KCHT, Kent County Council and Kent and Medway Social Care and Partnership Trust are coming together to plan and coordinate the care people receive.

For patients, this means a better quality of care, joined-up care plans and telling their story once.

By working in this way, illness can be detected and treated early, reducing the risk of people developing complex conditions later in life.

We have a range of services to help keep people well; our falls services in east and west Kent are cutting the number of people admitted to hospital after falling and are reducing long-term injuries.

Pressure on accident and emergency departments can also be heightened by delays in admitting or discharging patients.



Our community nurses visit people at home to keep them fit and well

With no community hospital in Maidstone, KCHT, funded by NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent County Council, and working with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust staff, has opened the 22-bed Romney Ward in Maidstone Hospital as a rehabilitation ward. This is helping to support patients with more complex needs and get them home without delay, enabling them to leave the ward after just two weeks.

Not only that, but it's freed up acute beds for people who are seriously ill.

People tell us they want to be treated at home and to remain as independent as possible, so these are just a few examples of the services we provide to make sure you get the right care, in the right place, by the right person and pressure on accident and emergency departments is reduced.

The one thing that's clear is we are all working hard to make sure your NHS is there for you, whenever you need it.





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CRIME

Surveyor on £60,000 is convicted for seven-years of railway graffiti attacks

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A SURVEYOR who earned £60,000-a-year and went on a seven-year graffiti spree, daubing his tag 'VAMP' on trains across London and the south east, has been jailed.

Father-of-two Kristian Holmes, 32, of Ellison Road, Sidcup, was jailed for three-and-a-half years after a five-week trial at Blackfriars Crown Court.

One of his attacks included spraying a 63-year-old train carriage on the Bluebell Railway, a steam-powered railway heritage line run by volunteers in Sussex.

And in an attempt to put police off his scent, he even uploaded a video to YouTube which seemed to suggest the culprit was mixed-race.

He had denied 39 criminal damage offences – but a jury found him guilty.

The cost of cleaning up the graffiti was said to be some £250,000.

The trial and conviction followed a major investigation by British Transport Police.



JAILED: Kristian Holmes tagged trains across the county and beyond, he also tried to mislead police

The court heard how Holmes vandalised trains, stations and bridges across London and the south east between 2003 and 2010.

When officers searched Holmes' address, they discovered a London A to Z street guide detailing the places he had vandalised.

They also found spray can nozzles, gloves covered in paint, along with high-visibility jackets he used to pretend he was a rail worker to allow him to gain access to the tracks.

BTP officers arrested Holmes at his place of work in Bromley on April 14, 2010, and seized his work computer.

Holmes was further charged with one count of perverting the course of justice after he uploaded videos to YouTube in an attempt to make investigators believe a mixed-race man was spraying the graffiti.

However, detectives uncovered photographs, among others on Holmes' home computer, showing him spray painting the tag.

He received two-and-a-half years for criminal damage and a further 12 months for perverting the course of justice.

Detective Sergeant Jez Walley, who led the investigation for BTP, said: "Holmes was a prolific vandal who offended over a number of years.

"He was determined to undermine the case by using social media to make detectives believe he was not responsible for the graffiti.

"These videos were investigated as thoroughly as the original offence."

DS Walley continued: "Graffiti offences are constantly being reviewed and offenders will be sought even many months or years after the crime has occurred – I hope this acts as a deterrent for those thinking about doing the same as Holmes.

"The financial costs of cleaning up graffiti have to be borne by someone, and that someone is ultimately the fare-paying passenger.

"Trains are taken out of service for cleaning, sometimes for days at a time, causing disruption and delays for passengers.

"Graffiti also involves very serious risks to those who go onto the tracks, who often don't know when a train will come or even if the tracks are live."

GUILTY

In a separate case, another Kent man was given a 12-month suspended sentence.

Also sentenced at Blackfriars, was Charlie Holland, 28, of Imperial Way, Chislehurst.

Holland received a 12-month suspended sentence for daubing graffiti on railway property and trains throughout London between December 2004 and 2009. The total bill to repair the damage came to some £93,343.87.

He was also told to complete 250 hours of unpaid work, and obey a curfew of remaining at his home address between 8pm and 6am.

Holland pleaded guilty to 11 counts of criminal damage at an earlier hearing at West London Magistrates Court.

The court heard that Holland's tag 'DFIE' has been prolific all over Kent and London.

Holland's social-network profile page showed a picture of him posing underneath a sign daubed with his tag.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**



Triumph and tragedy of Darwin's 'secret' home

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THERE are few English names which evoke such a sense of achievement and discovery as that of Charles Darwin.

His theory and work on evolution catapulted him from a mere 19th century naturalist to global scientific icon.

But what is easier to forget is he lived and conducted much of his work in Kent.

At his home, Down House in Downe, near Bromley, he penned his seminal On the Origin of Species – the groundbreaking study which set out to prove all species of life share common ancestry.

Already a well respected geologist due to his five-year voyage on HMS Beagle in 1831 – which saw him join the crew charting the coastline of South America – he published his detailed diary, Journal and Remarks, in 1839.

This early travel guide detailed his studies and after many reprints became better known as The Voyage of the Beagle. It was by examining the wildlife and fossils he found during the trip that would lead to Darwin's suggestion of natural selection.

Born in 1809 in Shropshire to a wealthy family, Darwin had been on track to become a clergyman until he found himself on-board the Beagle and his natural curiosity took control.

Upon his return from the journey and subsequent studies in London, Darwin relocated to the Kent countryside.

He and his family – wife Emma and children William and Anne – had been finding their London home too cramped, and in 1842 they moved to Down House after coming close to buying a property in Cobham.



RETREAT: Darwin moved his family to Down House in 1842

There was additional pressure for space too as Emma was expecting their third child.

What was essential to Darwin was the house gave him easy access to London.

With financial support from his father, the move was completed. Tragically, however, just three weeks after little Mary was born in the September – less than 10 days after they had moved down – the baby died.

Despite early reservations, the family made the best of the house and extended the building over the years.

Darwin died at the house on April 19, 1882, aged 73.

His wife continued to live there until her death in 1896, which then saw the property rented out before becoming home to the Downe School for Girls in 1907.

It eventually became the Darwin Museum, with English Heritage taking over the property in 1996.

The study in which he conducted his work remains on show to the public today, as Down House forms a major tourist attraction.

And it seems likely the site will only increase in popularity over the coming weeks as it prepares to enjoy the limelight of national TV.

ITV has teamed up with English Heritage to produce Britain's Secret Homes, which will look at 50 such sites across the UK.

Among them will be Down House, which has already played host to the film crew and presenters Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes.

In addition to examining the rooms of the house, the show will also take a stroll into the grounds of the building and a place where Darwin would derive much inspiration.

His outdoor 'hot-house' still features exotic carnivorous plants and orchids while the gardens are also open, revealing the different species of flora that Darwin enjoyed.

Former news reader Buerk said: "My bottom was on the same seat as Charles Darwin's.

"You get that sense of moment, of insight, of importance, of just being there. A strange aura of being in a place where something extraordinary has happened."

The programme will also focus on a less well-known historic site in Kent, Paramore Grange in Ash, near Deal.

The Jacobean house and its possible link to James VI of Scotland – better known as James I of England – will take centre stage in the five-part series which airs on Fridays at 9pm.

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OPINION

We will get things right again

In light of this week's recent criticism over crime reporting figures Chief Constable of Kent Police **Ian Learmonth** defends his force

I'M pleased Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found there were no corrupt practices, dishonesty or suppression of crimes in their recent study on crime reporting – nothing in policing is more important than integrity.

Kent Police is and always has been focused on the needs of the victim and is one of only a handful of forces that attend every crime report and speak to every victim.

We have consistently had some of the highest victim satisfaction rates in the country from those victims, with nine out 10 happy with the service. Only one force does a better job, and it is my ambition Kent will one day have the highest victim satisfaction rates in the UK.

The most important thing for the public to be sure of is we are there when you need us, and we will do a first-class job if you've been a victim of crime; bringing offenders to court and helping see that justice is done.

HMIC this week found that on nine out of 10 occasions Kent Police correctly recorded crimes.

This was following a review of a small number of incidents.

None of the 19 cases cited concerned serious crime, but I am still disappointed by this and we need to do more to ensure our accuracy is better.

Each case is only determined not to be a crime after a full investigation, and that decision cannot be approved without a supervisor's agreement. The complainant is then informed by the officer in the case.

Let me reassure you; we will review all of our processes to see how we can improve.

Every single person in this force takes pride in our service to the people of Kent, we seek to continuously improve across all of our services, and we will work hard to get things right.

The report highlighted two occasions when we cautioned burglars, but it gave none of the context.

In one case medical advice indicated the victim's mental illness was so severe they could not provide a statement.

In the other case, advances in DNA allowed us to arrest an offender four years after an offence, but the victim had moved away and despite extensive efforts could not be found.

Was cautioning within the strict confines of the guidelines? No. But was it a practical solution that protected the victim and held the offender to account? I believe it was.

When I joined the police this was called common sense.

HMIC also cited that a burglary team was dealing with a shoplifter: this is true, but this was done to target a habitual criminal who committed many different crime types, but mainly burglary.



We need to do more to ensure our accuracy is better

HMIC also found a historic bias towards chasing arbitrary numeric targets in common with many other police forces.

I scrapped these targets months ago and I'm pleased HMIC acknowledge there was no evidence of number chasing since I made these changes.

Quality of service is what counts, not whether an arbitrary and notional percentage target can be hit. To do so puts us at risk of hitting the target, but missing the point.

I acknowledge and accept all of the recommendations from HMIC. As your chief constable I am personally committed to do all I can to ensure the public of Kent can have confidence in what we do and be proud of the service we deliver.

Kent is one of the safest places in the UK... and I want to keep it that way.

KOS COMMENT

Something must be done about our roads

IF YOU start looking for potholes it is difficult to stop spying them. They seem to litter every road in the county at the moment.

In fact, it is difficult to remember a time when our roads were in such a dire state of repair.

Yet while hearing the dull clunk of your car wheel disappearing into a deep dent in the road is disheartening (and potentially very expensive) for a cyclist, the obstacle could quite easily leave them sprawled in the carriageway or catapulted into the path of an uncoming car.

It is no joke and one we should all be very concerned about. We are all urged to cycle, but with roads like death traps who is brave enough to try?

Culture club to live on

IN truth, it will have surprised few to learn East Kent's bid to become City of Culture 2017 failed to reach the final four this week.

Yet while it failed to ignite the imagination of the masses, it did trigger a coming together of a host of cultural attractions. It may yet bear fruit.



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Oast houses near Wateringbury
by David Hughes from Kings Hill

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Teachers just want to teach

THE comments mentioned in your article (KoS, June 16) by John Walder of the National Union of Teachers are very misleading and he, as most union officials, are obsessed with making political gain by mentioning strategic factors that do not affect the grass roots reasons why we have a teacher shortage.

Most teachers are not concerned about selective, private or state education, they are simply dedicated to educating those who want to learn. Whether this is in any particular sector is neither here nor there, it's the terms of employment that are the deciding factor.

If you get a better deal in a grammar school than a state or private school, then that's where you go. Is this not applicable to everyone in any working environment?

However, working conditions do make a difference; school discipline has to be conducive to these ideals. Unfortunately, in the majority of the state-run comprehensives throughout the UK, let alone Kent, classroom discipline is atrocious and a learning atmosphere is impossible to achieve.

This is the grass roots problem with people leaving the profession and foreign teachers reluctant to teach in our state sector.

The teachers are not allowed, by poor school management and pupil power, to practise their profession. This has never been resolved by various education secretaries over the years and will continue to cause badly educated children and dissatisfied teachers which is what we are experiencing, today.

John Atkins, retired teacher, Greatstone

Efficient on so many levels

PHIL Granger (Letters, June 9) and ARW Smith (Letters, June 2) both state that lower speed limits would mean higher fuel consumption, as engines are less efficient at lower speeds.

It is true cars tend to be more fuel-efficient as they go faster, around 55mph (and then become less efficient at speeds higher than that).

However, this only applies at constant speeds, because the main waste of fuel is repeated acceleration and braking.

On typical residential roads, the bends and junctions mean one can't travel at more than 20mph for very long, so it is more economical, as well as safer, to stay at the lower speed, rather than speed up to 30 or even 40 mph, only to have to slow down again after a few seconds.

Lower and properly enforced speed limits in residential areas mean fewer accidents, fewer deaths, less noise pollution and an environment that encourages walking and cycling.

As a bonus, for drivers it also means lower fuel consumption.

Richard Mountford, Hildenborough

Drivers seen as scapegoat

MUCH is being said by the so-called 'experts' regarding 20mph speed limits.

As always it's just part of the war on motorists, those who pay dearly to be able to use their car.

Never do we read about the feckless who walk off the pavement texting on their phone or listening to music, too busy to see if it's safe, or the cyclist who darts around at will all over the place.

Why do these people not understand their own safety is something they should have an interest in?

I think we should be thinking about jaywalker laws – make everyone responsible.

Fines could be dished out to some who really cause accidents. It certainly isn't always the driver's fault.

David Harris, Cliftonville

Will you keep your ideals?

A REFRESHING change of attitude from Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford (KoS, June 16), but then we have got used to MPs who tell us what we want to hear while doing the opposite.

The 'great pretenders' in Westminster have abdicated their authority to the EU, quangos and other non-government organisations (NGOs), so there is little they can do, or need to do.

Any pretence they can change very much is shown by their inability to even deport terrorists who wish us harm, while we pay millions for their care.

I sincerely hope Tracey doesn't become yet another 'time server', looking for the greatest personal gain, while allowing foreigners and NGOs to run the country.

We need MPs who will stand up for us and this country.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Barnes blows a lot of hot air

THE more I read of Ann Barnes, the more I wonder how Kent County Constabulary functioned without her.

I didn't realise when I mistakenly voted for her to be Kent Police and Crime Commissioner I was also voting for such a good trumpet blower.

Michael Wise, Canterbury

Memories not always great

I'VE enjoyed your readers' happy memories of yesteryear and have a few of my own from the 1930s.

Of freezing around a small coal fire, a toilet in the backyard and clothes handed down from older siblings.

Of patrolling the streets with a bucket to try and find horse manure deposited by the rag-and-bone man's horse to get a penny or two from gardeners.

The money would allow us a treat at the Saturday cinema where every so often the attendant came along with disinfection spray.

Memories of teachers slashing you across the hands with a cane because you couldn't work out 13 x 13 was 169 or Henry VIII died in 1547.

Men in their hundreds humiliated by standing on street corners with a tray around their waist selling matches and shoe laces.

Brian Reynolds, Herne

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Publisher: Simon Irwin
Editor: Chris Britcher
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial: Telephone 01303 817100; Fax 01303 817002; Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

GEORGINA widow, WLTM gent, 60-80 with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

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60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

Men Seeking

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FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633**

CANTERBURY sign language interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

TALL friendly, light hearted, single, 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR with mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405557**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341**

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397**

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

MEDWAY male, 60's, solvent, seeks attractive lady, 55-65, GSOH to wine, dine and share the good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405429**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTM N/S female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401309**

Gay Seeking

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THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male of similar age for occasional meetings and mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405863**

BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

BI male, senior, clean shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male, any age for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401915**

BI male, seeking easygoing bi male/CD, 18-55 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401891**

ALAN gay guy, sensitive, likes music, art, seeks similar for friendship, holidays and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401569**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 40, Medway, seeks sports buddies into table tennis, golf, snooker and pool. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405417**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

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Pictures: CANARY WHARF GROUP/LAND SECURITIES



ONWARDS TO UPWARDS: Head gardener Des Smith, right, will oversee the new garden at the Walkie Talkie building in Canary Wharf



Sky garden reaching new heights

Landscapers embark on challenge of creating country's first skyscraper greenhouse

By **GREG MILES**

DEVELOPERS are taking greenhouse-gardening to the extreme with a ground-breaking feature to top off their London skyscraper... all with the help of a group of Edenbridge landscaping experts.

The latest addition to Canary Wharf's skyline, 20 Fenchurch Street, dubbed the Walkie Talkie building, will have a top floor covered with a giant glazed dome filled with plants from around the world.

It is an idea that brings plenty of challenges as it is not yet known how a 'greenhouse' at such height will be affected by the drop in temperature that comes with being 38 storeys up, while there are also the logistical problems involved in transporting thousands of plants and seven-metre-tall trees to the top of the skyscraper.

Willerby Landscapes is fortunately no stranger to a challenge, having recently won two gold awards at the Chelsea Flower Show and been responsible for a large section of the landscaping at the Olympic Park in Stratford.

As the horticultural contractor for the project, the company is responsible for choosing the plants and managing their installation at the building, which is still under construction.

It was able to put to use its strong contacts in the industry to win the contract, having carried out a lot of landscaping in Canary Wharf back in 1989.

"The design itself isn't a problem, it's just whereabouts it is," said Willerby head gardener Des Smith.

"It's the first time anything has been done like this in the UK. It's a weird place to put a conservatory, I will say that.

"It's a huge greenhouse – we are talking about 1,200 square metres, which is a large lump of glass. No one is really sure how the wind up there will affect the climate and how the temperature will change. We have got no natural ventilation, not like you have in a greenhouse. We are cooling the temperature by the use of irrigation, cooling the air through water droplets."

Des feels that it could herald a new era of growing in urban areas, where green space will be at a premium in the future.

He said: "Going forward, it's going to be very interesting to see if we can put other things like this on other blocks – and not just pretty plants, but food as well. It's not an experiment, but more of a trial. We are going to have to use wonderful things like this to grow food for people."

The gardens will be surrounded by pathways and a restaurant on the top level of the building, which will be accessible only to office workers via a private lift from the floors below.

Willerby's search for the right plants has taken them all over the world, with those selected now being looked after in Cornwall to prepare them for the English climate ahead of their big move.

"The plants are chosen to be robust and fairly easy to grow and maintain but still to provide colour all year round, and to grow in an area with this weird climate going on," said Des.

"It's taken a long process. We've had to procure them – we've got trees coming from Italy that will be hardening up, as it were, to this country in Cornwall.

The design itself isn't a problem, but it's a weird place to put a conservatory, I will say

"The rest come from the Southern Hemisphere and Africa, and many from nurseries in the Mediterranean.

"We will be moving them in the winter, so they will need to be able to handle the change in climate.

"The gardens open in April 2014, so we need them to be healthy for then."

Des, 57, has been in the gardening industry for 36 years and is no stranger to innovation, but it is only now that he is seeing things he learnt at college reach a larger scale.

"When I started out in the industry, the irrigation systems used hot-water pipes in greenhouses," he said.

"To use mist as a ventilation or temperature modifier wasn't even thought of then. Likewise, hydroponics, where fruit and vegetables are grown in water, was something I learned about in the 70s but is now in use today.

"Things progress year on year. Kew was the first place that brought plants back from around the world and tried to keep them in conditions they were used to. This was in the Victorian times.

"I trained in greenhouse horticulture anyway, so I'm using that experience to grow plants in a false climate."

Having selected all the vegetation, which includes 38 large trees, 80 ferns and 7,500 perennials, the plants need to be transported up the building, along with the tonnes of soil and rocks.

"Once the plants are established, it shouldn't be a problem," Des said.

"We are having to use the service lift prior to the building being finished.

"Trying to move a two-and-a-half-tonne tree over nicely-carpeted areas would be a problem.

"We did think about using an outside crane, but that would mean there would have to be empty glazing panels.

"We are moving it up in the lift shaft rather than in the lift – a procedure we have used before. We get on site in October – the soil has to go in, and the rocks, so we will start planting in February.

"It will take us about month."

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BIG HITTERS: A world of music and cuisine will be celebrated at the festival in Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells all set to dig the groove of the bhangra beat

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE Wells will come alive to the sounds of Bangladeshi pop stars, steel bands and folk music in a glorious celebration of the town's rich and diverse cultures.

The Mela Festival will be showing all that is good about the Tunbridge Wells community through a riot of music, food and dance on Sunday, July 7, at Calverley Grounds.

The event, now in its eighth year, is being organised for the first time by a new partnership comprising Cohesion Plus Kent, Sue Latham Events (SLE) and the Kent Equality Cohesion Council (KECC).

The festival was previously under the guidance of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, which pulled out of funding this year's event, raising concerns that it would not take place.

"Over the years the Mela has proven to be very popular, pulling in crowds of around 5,000 and attracting leading creative and performing artists," said Sue Latham, of SLE. "We have an exciting programme showcasing both local and national talent, with genres including pop music, bhangra, calypso, comedy and soul.

"In the food zone we have cuisine from around the world, including Asian, British, Indian, Oriental, European and Caribbean."

Gurvinder Sandher, chief executive of KECC, said: "We hope the local communities will come out and support the Mela and reinforce the positive community relations enjoyed across the borough."

Highlights on the stage programme include performances by the Charlie Monroe Band, Phase 5 Steel Band, Bangladeshi pop star Shilpi, award-winning Four by Four bhangra group, comedy duo Danny and Dan and country-folk star Ilona.

The event will be headlined by the Magical Motown Band.

Their is also a creative-arts area run by Samesky and Tunbridge Wells Childminding Association, who will be organising workshops.

Castle's classical concert is 'super backdrop' for cadet band

THE Band of the Royal Air Force Air Training Corps has been added to the line-up at the Leeds Castle Open Air Classical Concert.

The pipes and drums of 2513 Squadron from Romney Marsh will perform at the event, on Saturday, July 13.

The band has performed at Buckingham Palace to commemorate 150 years of the cadet service and last year performed for The Queen at Balmoral to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee.

2513 (Romney Marsh) Squadron Air Training Corps officer Dave Laws said: "We are excited to be performing this summer at Leeds Castle.

"The cadets are a very professional band and play to a very high standard.

"I am extremely proud of them and what they have achieved and this will be a super backdrop for our performance."

Ticket prices are £36 for picnic style and £46 for seats. To book, call 08456 526262. Visit www.heritageevents.co.uk for details.





OLD TIME: Go West will be performing in county

80s chart-topping trio unite for one-off tour

EIGHTIES favourites Go West, Hue And Cry and The Christians are joining forces for a one-off tour that takes in two Kent dates this autumn.

The three groups play at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, November 23, and Dartford's Orchard Theatre the following evening.

The trio boast millions of record sales between them, with hits such as We Close Our Eyes, Call Me, King Of Wishful Thinking (all Go West), Labour Of Love, Looking For Linda, Violently (all Hue And Cry) and Forgotten Town and Harvest For The World (The Christians).

Celebrating more than 25 years together, Go West had their first hit We Close Our Eyes in 1985. This year sees the release of their latest CD, 3D, which is being released in three parts.

The first single from the album, Skin Deep, co-written with former Spandau Ballet lead singer Tony Hadley, is released this month.

Hue And Cry burst on to the UK music scene in the late 1980s with the albums Seduced And Abandoned and Remote, which featured Labour Of Love and Looking For Linda.

Merseyside stars The Christians were also one of the 80s' biggest music acts, bringing a soul edge to the charts.

Both shows start at 7.30pm. To book for the show in Tunbridge Wells, phone 01892 530 613, while for the performance in Dartford phone 01322 220000.

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A cast quick on its feet

FAST-PACED spy thriller The 39 Steps is coming to The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

Based on John Buchan's 1914 book, it has been adapted for the stage and sees four actors play 139 roles in 100 minutes.

The show, which has been running in the West End for six years, was adapted for stage by Patrick Barlow and is directed by Maria Aitken.

It will be appearing at The Marlowe from Monday to Saturday, July 1-6.



Performance times are 7.30pm, with 2.30pm matinees on the Thursday and Saturday.

Tickets are priced from £14 to £30; phone the box office on 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Charities will fair well

THOUSANDS of people are expected to flock to the traditional Kennington Summer Fair in Ashford later this month.

This year the event includes a children's funfair and fun dog-show, while in the arena there will be displays by the award-winning Towers Cheerleaders and the Reel Éire dance group.

More than 30 stalls will be selling a range of goods, all in aid of charities and local voluntary organisations.

The fair starts at noon on Saturday June 29, on the Recreation Ground, Ulley Road, Kennington. Admission and parking are free.

Make a beeline to Dungeness and join walk to raise money

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

WILDLIFE fans can learn about the reintroduction of a type of bee at Dungeness National Nature Reserve at the same time as raising money to help ensure its survival.

The RSPB has organised a sponsored walk as part of an activity day to support the short-haired bumblebee project at Dungeness.

On Sunday, June 30, visitors can take part in a three- or six-kilometre sponsored walk around the reserve, which will follow a specially-created bee trail. Afterwards, the team behind the project will share its knowledge, while other children's activities will be taking place.

Dr Nikki Gammans, from the short-haired bumblebee project, said: "This is a great opportunity for families to learn about bees, see them up close and learn about their importance.

"With bumblebee and all bee numbers in sharp decline, projects such as this are essential in providing vital natural habitats.

"We encourage people to adopt wildlife-friendly gardening by planting native wildflowers and bee-friendly plants in their gardens."

Other activities you can take part in on the day include a treasure hunt and, depending on where your artistic talent lies, bee and flower fancy-dress or mobile-phone photographic competitions, all to raise funds for conservation.

Nic Willett, senior community fund-raising officer with the RSPB South East, is hoping that many people will support the event. She said: "We're really hoping that lots register for our sponsored walk as it's going to be a fantastic fun day out for the family.



BUZZ: Walk will aid the short-haired bumblebee

"Every pound donated helps us to continue essential work such as the short-haired bumblebee project. Funds raised from the walk will be split equally between the RSPB and the short-haired bumblebee project."

Walkers will set off at 10am or 1.30pm and everyone taking part will receive a goodie-bag.

To register for the sponsored walk, email your name and contact details to nic.willett@rspb.org.uk or text them to 07725 217318.

FAB FOUR

Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, June 29, 7.30pm
Box office: 01892 530613
Website: www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

The Upbeat Beatles: Bringing all the enthusiasm from the original Fab Four (!), The Upbeat Beatles have been together since 1997 and are still going strong. Tickets £17.50.

The Winter Gardens, Margate
Friday, June 28, 7.30pm
Box office: 01843 292795
Website: www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

Al Murray: The pub landlord is back in action on The Only Way Is Epic tour, following his twice-extended Barrel Of Fun tour. Not suitable for under-16s. Tickets £25.50.

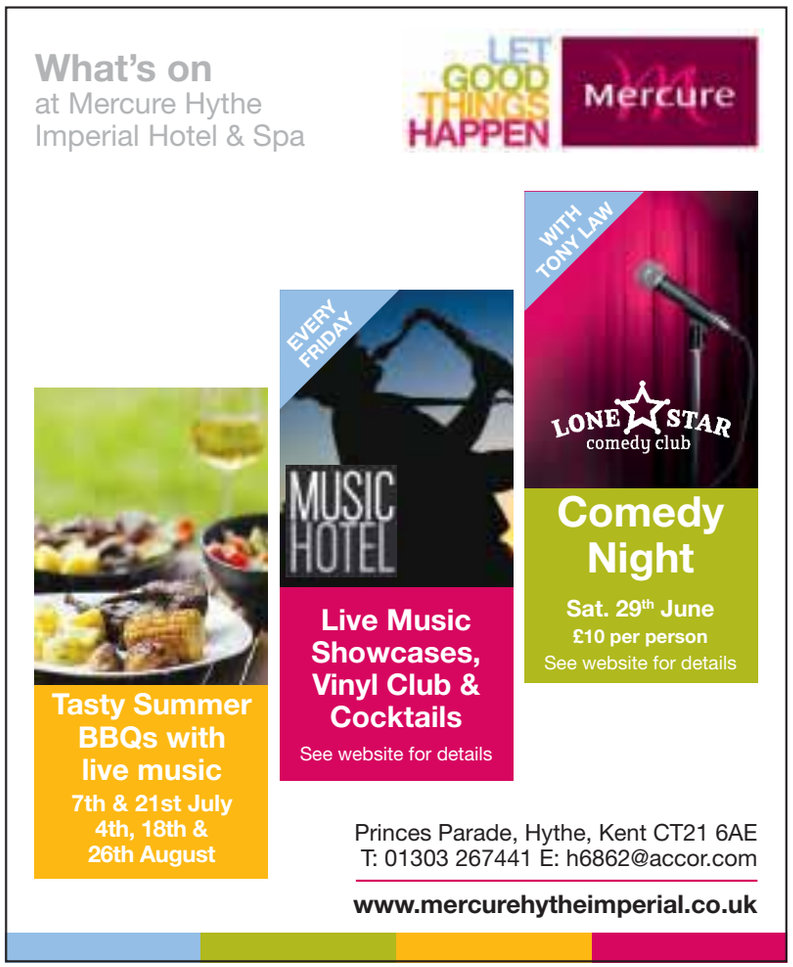
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Friday, July 5, 7.30pm
Box office: 01303 228600
Website: www.leascliffhall.co.uk

The Proclaimers: Twins Craig and Charlie Reed released their ninth album Like Comedy last year, 26 years on from their first. They will be playing all their hits. Tickets £29.40.

The Brook Theatre, Chatham
Tuesday, July 2, 8pm
Box office: 01634 338338
Website: www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

The Derek Nash Acoustic Quartet: The jazz group will play music from their award-winning Joyriding album, which features lyrical melodies and rhythm. Tickets £11.





Son goes on an emotional journey to recapture his father's heroic wartime deeds in first novel

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

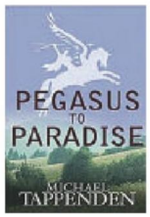
THE story of a Chatham man's role in D-Day and the impact it had on the rest of his life has formed the basis of his son's first novel.

It was during the Allied invasion of Normandy in the Second World War that Ted Tappenden relayed the Ham and Jam radio message signalling the critical capture of Bénouville Bridge after the 6th Airborne Division's glider raid on June 5, 1944.

The bridge was subsequently renamed Pegasus in tribute to the operation (the shoulder emblem worn by the British airborne forces is the flying horse Pegasus).

He was later involved in another glider assault across the Rhine in Germany and on the Baltic front before returning home a very different man.

Having seen how the war had affected his father, Michael Tappenden decided to relate the story in his part-fictional novel Pegasus To Paradise.



"His story has never been told. He is often mentioned in military accounts, but I thought it was about time I did something about that," said Michael.

The 71-year-old, like his father, joined the Army and the Parachute Regiment, making tours of duty in Cyprus with the United Nations peacekeeping force. He went on to become a graphic designer and principal lecturer at the former Kent Institute of Art & Design.

The West Wickham resident said his father rarely shared his story.

"He never spoke about it and consequently he suffered. He withdrew from the world," said Michael. "I knew about Pegasus as I grew up because Dad kept his uniform and there were badges on it. I found out that way. I didn't find out about the Rhine crossing until many years later.

"When he died, he wanted us to scatter his ashes at Pegasus Bridge, which we did."

Michael began writing the book, which is told through his eyes, four years ago with the help of a creative-writing class.

"I have gone through every emotion known to man writing it.

"There are times I have laughed, had moist eyes, raged with frustration – but most of all it was very revealing.

"A lot of people have ideas floating around, but when you're forced to put it on paper it focuses what you really mean and think."

■ **Pegasus To Paradise is published by Acorn; it is available from Amazon.co.uk for £8.99 or £2.99 as an eBook.**

Calendar Girls are ready to grin and bare it by seaside

THE Minster Players dare to bare as they present Calendar Girls, the hugely popular play by Tim Firth.

After a successful stint at Minster Playhouse in May, the Players bring their pool of talent to Broadstairs to present this feel-good show.

Calendar Girls tells the story of a group of women from Yorkshire who decide to make an alternative Women's Institute calendar to raise funds for the local cancer ward.

Gone are the days of scenic photos – the ladies strip off and protect their modesty using an array of strategically-placed objects.

You can see the Minster Players at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, Memorial Theatre, St Peter's Road, Broadstairs, on Saturday, June 29, at 7.30pm and Sunday, June 30, at 2.30pm. Tickets are priced at £8 (advance) and £10 (on the door). Seats are bookable in advance from the box office on 0845 2626263.

While the 24-hour booking rule applies to non-members of Sarah Thorne, seats can be reserved by phone or on the 24-hour online booking service at info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.



LADIES' NIGHT: All-female cast will perform show

Shakespeare just as the Bard would have liked it

THE Playhouse Theatre Whitstable will be hosting an all-female production of The Taming Of The Shrew later this month.

Shakespeare's Globe is bringing its new production as part of its award-winning small-scale touring programme.

It is being billed as a rare opportunity to experience the freshness and simplicity of the theatre tour as it was in Shakespeare's day.

The tour is concluding with four nights in Hong Kong and 10 in Singapore – the first foray into Asia for a Globe theatre tour.

Kate Lamb takes on the role of Katherina, while Leah Whitaker plays Petruchio.

The play will be directed by Joe Murphy, who is also the artistic director of Nabokov, an acclaimed new writing company.

To book tickets, which are priced at £17.50, visit www.shakespearesglobe.com or www.playhousewhitstable.co.uk, or alternatively you can phone 020 74019919.

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Digging dirt on manor

THE history of Randall Manor will be put under the microscope during archaeological digs at Shorne Woods Country Park this summer.

Visitors are being invited to take part in what has become the annual summer dig at the former home of the de Cobham family from Saturday, June 29, to Sunday, July 28.

Archaeologists have revealed the foundations of the building, so far uncovering a kitchen, brewery, store buildings, courtyard fish-ponds and the Lord of the Manor's toilet.

Visitors can get involved, using tools borrowed from the Kent Archaeological Society, which will also be present to offer advice.

There will also be a Wars of the Roses re-enactment by The Woodville Household group, which will host a living-history camp on Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28.

Olympic stars' chorus

THE choir that sang at the closing ceremony of the London Olympics will be performing in Rochester this month.

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir, which took centre stage at the Olympic Stadium in east London last year, is touring the country after finding fame and will be at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday, June 29.

It is the only show in the county this year by the London-based Welshmen.

The event, hosted by the Kent branch of the Institute of Directors and sponsored by land and property auctioneer Clive Emson, starts at 7pm. Tickets are priced at £10; to book, phone 0800 046 3396 or 01634 810074.

Sounds of death are music to the ears of Aussie artist

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE ethereal sounds of near-death experiences have been brought together by an Australian artist who will be performing her 'documentary art' at Margate's Turner Contemporary next month.

Saskia Moore has spent the last few years researching the sounds that people hear just before they die, gleaned from people who have had near-death experiences (NDE).

She has compiled the music and sounds to form miniature symphonies for a larger piece of work called Dead Symphony.

It includes voice cello, harp, marimba, keyboards and electronics, and will be performed by her and ensemble Apartment House at the Margate gallery on Saturday, July 6.

It is said that sound is the last sense experienced moments before death.



DEATH KNELL: Saskia Moore

"There's a digital, synthetic sound – that's how a lot of people describe it," said Moore.

"Very beautiful, often like a choral sound but with sustained notes. Some said it was melodic, almost like chimes, but not like church bells and not religious. One told of a hum of electricity, silenced by a crack."

Moore has been working on the project as an artist in residence with arts group Sound & Music. She said: "Transcribing this music has been an interesting process, devising ways and means to talk with non-musical people to describe, hum and even at times colour and draw the sounds.

"What I have heard and transcribed is a profound similarity of sonic atmospheres people hear during an NDE – it's wild, fascinating and the stuff of goosebumps.

"I read many books and documented people's accounts of their near-death experiences and spoke with many scientists, doctors, people of religion, spiritualists, quantum mechanists.

"My perspective of death has changed irrevocably, but I remain wholly fascinated, confused and curious about it."

Performances take place at 4pm and 6pm, while at 5pm Moore and Apartment House director Anton Lukoszevieze will be talking about their work.

Tickets are priced at £6 (£5 concessions); a ticket gives access to one performance and the talk. Visit www.turnercontemporary.org.

FAB FOUR

Faversham Creek
Saturday, June 29, 2.30pm-4.30pm
Phone: 01795 539209
Website: www.discoveringbritain.org
Discovering Britain: Join Raymond Molony on a four-mile walk along Faversham Creek to learn how water shaped the town; the walk starts at Faversham station.

St Peter's Church, Bexleyheath
Saturday, July 13, 7.30pm
Phone: 0208 3045446
Website: www.bexleyphoenixchoir.org.uk
Bexley Phoenix Choir: Enjoy the choir's Something For Everyone pre-tour concert at the Pickford Lane church. The 30-strong choir sings everything from classical to pop. Tickets £7.

Diggerland, Strood
Sunday, June 30
Phone: 0871 22 77 007
Website: www.diggerland.com
Digger Wars: For the first time since 2005, Digger Wars is back. Watch two digger-drivers go head to head in a battle at the theme park. Entrance £17.

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Friday, June 28, 7.30pm.
Phone: 01322 220000
Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
Motown's Greatest Hits – How Sweet It Is: The sounds of Lionel Richie, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops and more combine in one show. Tickets £22.



To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Royal Native Stores: still a real pearl in seaside resort's shell

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**



OF all the restaurants that make up the smörgåsbord of eateries in and around Whitstable, there is one that has always remained the grandfather of them all.

The Royal Native Oyster Stores fish restaurant, its weatherboarded site jutting out over the shingle shores of the most popular part of the pretty seaside town, reeks of fishing-industry history.

As such, it is always on the hit-list of the relentless wave of weekenders dipping their toes in the town's charms.

Yet, while revered, it isn't always a must-go experience for the local, primarily on the grounds of cost – this isn't a dining experience for the faint-hearted – and the fact that there is such a wide range of other quality diners nearby.

It does, however, remain a rather marvellous experience and one that anyone with a penchant for seafood really ought to visit.

The restaurant itself is all high ceilings, exposed beams and heavy wood floors, the clientele an ecletic blend of well-to-do local and day-tripper. As a consequence, it provides fascinating soup for those who like to indulge in a little people-watching.

But it is, of course, the food on which its reputation hangs.

Unsurprisingly, the daily-changing menu is awash with fruits de mer. The question is whether it can deliver where its stablemate, the Hotel Continental, so dramatically and inexcusably fails, at least when I have visited.

The answer is that it delivers in glorious style. While the Continental injected no love or soul into its cooking, here every dish appears to have been carefully considered – it's more than just an elaborate-sounding dish on a menu.

So the starter of mussels with local cider, cream and mustard, for example, doesn't just arrive – it embraces you. The shellfish is plump and the right colour, the sauce rich but, crucially, so different from the moules marinières that every restaurant with seafood pretensions serves up. The mustard and cider provide a zing that tees up the palate a treat.

The dressed crab is moist and light, while even the salad comes with a bounce.

The steak, local oyster and oyster stout pie is rammed with huge hunks of steak and tender whole oysters in a rich sauce. The golden pastry topping lies like delicate clothes to be gently removed and savoured before the dish's main body below is revealed.

If that isn't enough, even the desserts are worth writing home about – a chocolate pecan truffle salted caramel layer cake with cream tasting like thick, dense heaven... a rose crème brûlée melt-in-the mouth delicious.

So the setting is right and the food is great. The only complaint comes at the cost. For two of us, including wine, it was just shy of £100. But as ever with dining out, you pay for the experience. And it may just about justify the extra mortgage.

Chris Thomson

■ **Royal Native Oyster Stores**
Horsebridge, Whitstable CT5 1BU
(phone 01227 276856)

Curry awards spring a hot (sort of!) summer

LOVERS of Asian food can nominate their favourite restaurants for the third annual Asian Curry Awards.

Following 11 regional heats across the country, the winners will be announced at a glittering awards dinner being held at Grosvenor House Hotel in London in November.

There will be awards for Asian Chef Of The Year, Young Chef Of The Year and Takeaway Of The Year in 15 categories.

Chefs competing for the top gong will be invited to prepare a signature dish to be judged on criteria of innovation, technical skill, nutritional value, food hygiene, creativity and, of course, taste. Visit www.asiancurryawards.co.uk.

Rick Stein returns for a spicy book signing

LEGENDARY TV chef Rick Stein will be heading to Bluewater shopping centre to meet fans and sign copies of his new book.

The fish-dish maestro will be appearing at Waterstones on Saturday, July 13, at 1.30pm to autograph copies of Rick Stein's India, which accompanies his BBC TV series of the same name.

The chef is a big fan of Kent's seaside venues and its oysters, having both eaten and presented shows in the county on several occasions.

The feisty cook includes the Whitstable Shellfish Company as a recommended supplier on his website.

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And guess what?
This local delight is available exclusively to buy at the Marquis.
So come over and enjoy a glass to start a meal - perhaps take a bottle home with you.







KENT LIFE
Kent on Sunday
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk
FOOD&DRINK AWARDS 2013

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We are delighted to be able to bring you the very first *Kent Life & Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards

THE Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards will take place at Tudor Park Hotel on Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 6.30pm to midnight.

These brand-new awards are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the good and the great from the county's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers – people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies nominated will all be voted for by you, our readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your farmers' market or farm shop.

Entry forms are available online at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

Entries close on Friday, August 30, 2013.

Our panel of judges will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony in November, where they will enjoy a Champagne reception and three-course meal based on locally-sourced produce before finding out if they are a winner.

This is the first Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you the chance to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry, the ones that consistently go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a budding chef or local producer, then help to spread the word among your clients and visitors.

With our online voting system up and running, it takes no time at all to cast your vote.

The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than number of votes, so everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small your business is.

Event Partner:

TUDOR PARK
A MARRIOTT HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

AWARDS CRITERIA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Pomegranate Catering

This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink business who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. It could be any food and drink business but we want to know what impact they have made on the local community and whether they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience? Tell us who has impressed you.

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

This category is here for one reason and that is to praise our many local butchers and everything they do for Kent. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Does the butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them.

BEST TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

A AUDLEY

We recognise that tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing about your favourites.

INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This category acknowledges the hard work Kent's independent food and drink retailers put into giving their customers the best possible experience in-store, reinforcing their role at the heart of the community and showing true innovation with their displays. We are looking for independent retailers who put local and seasonal at the heart of the food and drink experience and who are proud to work with and support the best the Garden of England can offer.

BEST FARM SHOP

WAGGON at HALE

Just like our Farmers' Markets, a good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

BEST FOOD OR DRINK PRODUCER

This category celebrates our local suppliers and producers who play such a vital role in the food community. We are looking for someone who consistently provides a reliable quality of products and services to their customers. So whether it's your local bakery, drinks merchant or meat producer, we want to know why this person or business goes the extra mile for you and gets your vote.

BEST FAMILY DINING VENUE

Eastwell Manor

We've all experienced that sinking feeling when you go out for a meal with the family and you know almost immediately the proprietors and staff would have preferred you to have left the kids at home. We want to know about the exact opposite, those establishments that welcome and treat with respect your whole party, from elderly to very young, and ideally don't banish you too an outer room away from the main dining area. Do they have high-quality menus that suit every age group, provide high chairs if needed, offer useful distractions such as paper and crayons for younger children to use at the table? Is there a children's play area and good baby-changing facilities in the toilets? And most importantly is the food of an excellent standard and worthy of mum and dad as well as the younger members of the party? Tell us all about your best family dining experience in Kent.

BEST PUB OF THE YEAR

faversham.org connect

Combining country pubs and dining pubs, the whole eating-out experience needs to be taken into account in this category. Customer service, value for money and the quality of the food should all be accounted for. How well does the establishment you recommend use and name local suppliers and seasonal produce throughout its menus? Neighbourhood pubs are at the heart of the local community and this category is your chance to give something back for all the enjoyment they give you. Are the staff friendly and welcoming, even if it isn't your local? Are there local ales, juices, wines and ciders available to purchase and if so, are they proudly on display? Also, note the quality and speed of the service, the overall atmosphere and ambience, both inside and outside in the beer garden.

BEST FARMER'S MARKET

MYFERRYLINK
Owned and run by the crew

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers, is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks, is it well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance, is there good accessibility and parking?

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

SIDNEY MARSH FISH MARKET

We suspect that this category will be one of our most coveted awards, as the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced and does it change with the seasons? Does chef support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Look through the wine list, are there local as well as international wines and sparkling wines and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from our Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Swans Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd

Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

BEST KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO

Kent has a food and drink scene that is more vibrant than many others across the UK. This category celebrates the individual who has made the most impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent food and drink hero.

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GARDENING WITH THE EXPERT
JEREMY SHIRLEY



PROVERB of the month: 'When the months of July, August and September are unusually hot, January will be the coldest month'.

Well, since I penned my piece for June, home gardeners and farmers have been in despair.

Now, having passed the longest day, I urge you to not give up and to have hope and faith in your ability, and all will change for the better.

As our 50th anniversary in Kent approaches, my family take pleasure in having inspired so much for so many. Isn't gardening like business – one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration?

Gardeners don't need silly health clubs for exercise. Easy gardening exercises and relaxes mind, body and spirit, leading to longevity. I'm proof, and there are many more like me with active brains – they're physically active, too.

So what's to be done this month? Growing grapes for eating or wine – and my wife makes grape jam that, after about six months, has a mellow, super-alcoholic kick to make you feel 'Oh be joyful'.



BEAUTY: Flowers of the Portulaceae tribe can create a gloriously dramatic effect for summer gardens

Of all the fruits, grapes are the most essential, detoxifying the blood and boosting the immune system by destroying harmful cells. So plant pot-grown grape vines in the ground or tubs now!

Visit your specialist nursery. You will not get the same advice from multiple big-shed garden centres.

Pot-grown vines must be planted now to ensure a healthy life. The varieties I recommend are Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Madeline Angevine, Pinot Gris and Triomph D'Alsace as all suitable to grow outside within our county.

The famous Hampton Court Vine Black Hamburg, which can be seen trailing over our new arbour, is supreme as a black grape with pips.

You must eat the skins and the pips for maximum health benefit. More anon.

Pinot Noir is the champion for Champagne... oh, did you know it was the English who first made Champagne by accident? All fruiting stock, fruit trees and soft fruits, provided they are pot-grown, can still be planted.

This is the month to plant Calypso Magic. A magic that I first discovered in 1964, very few nurseries now grow this gem that loves a hot, dry and sunny position. Calypso Magic was my naming for plants from the tribe Portulaceae, of









GROWING: Vines can be grown in this county if you put your mind to it, far left, while Stephen Shirley tends to his quality tomatoes

which Portulaca is a widespread genus. It is a spreading succulent with silk-like, vibrantly-coloured flowers that create a dramatic effect for summer planting, window boxes, baskets and planters, but not many are grown these days.

In 1964 I sold more than 100,000 such plants. These paid for my former luxury bungalow and much more in 1965 – and that is why my wife and I chose to call our former home Portulaceae.

I must clear up a query following last month's article featuring a picture of Becky with a tray of pricked-off fuchsia seedlings. The caption mistakenly said that it was not too late to plant varieties of *fruit and vegetables* [my italics] in garden pots. The good news, though, is that those seedling fuchsias are now looking fine and can be planted now.

After a poor start due to dreadful light conditions, my son Stephen's tomatoes, chillies and peppers are looking grand.

Incidentally, if you make a second sowing of Pixie bush tomatoes now to grow in two-litre pots for your kitchen window-sill or conservatory, you could have this variety in fruit until and indeed beyond Christmas.

Have you ever grown new potatoes for Christmas? If not, plant retarded seed potatoes now and you will, I'm sure, be pleasantly surprised.

When the growth haulm, as it is known, starts to yellow and die down, remove it at once. Do not compost – that's for those autumn bonfires.

Carefully lift the potatoes in early November. In Victorian times, these were put in biscuit tins of sharp, moist sand and stored frost-free.

Use wooden boxes – not plastic or polystyrene – to avoid chemical leaching.

I suggest you pot up a few mint roots in September, cut the growth back hard and place on your kitchen window-sill. Hey presto! Fresh mint to include with your Christmas potatoes – and mint sauce with roast English lamb, too!

Stephen and Serena have only recently released Snowman pumpkins for primary schools and their competitions. Yes, white pumpkins!

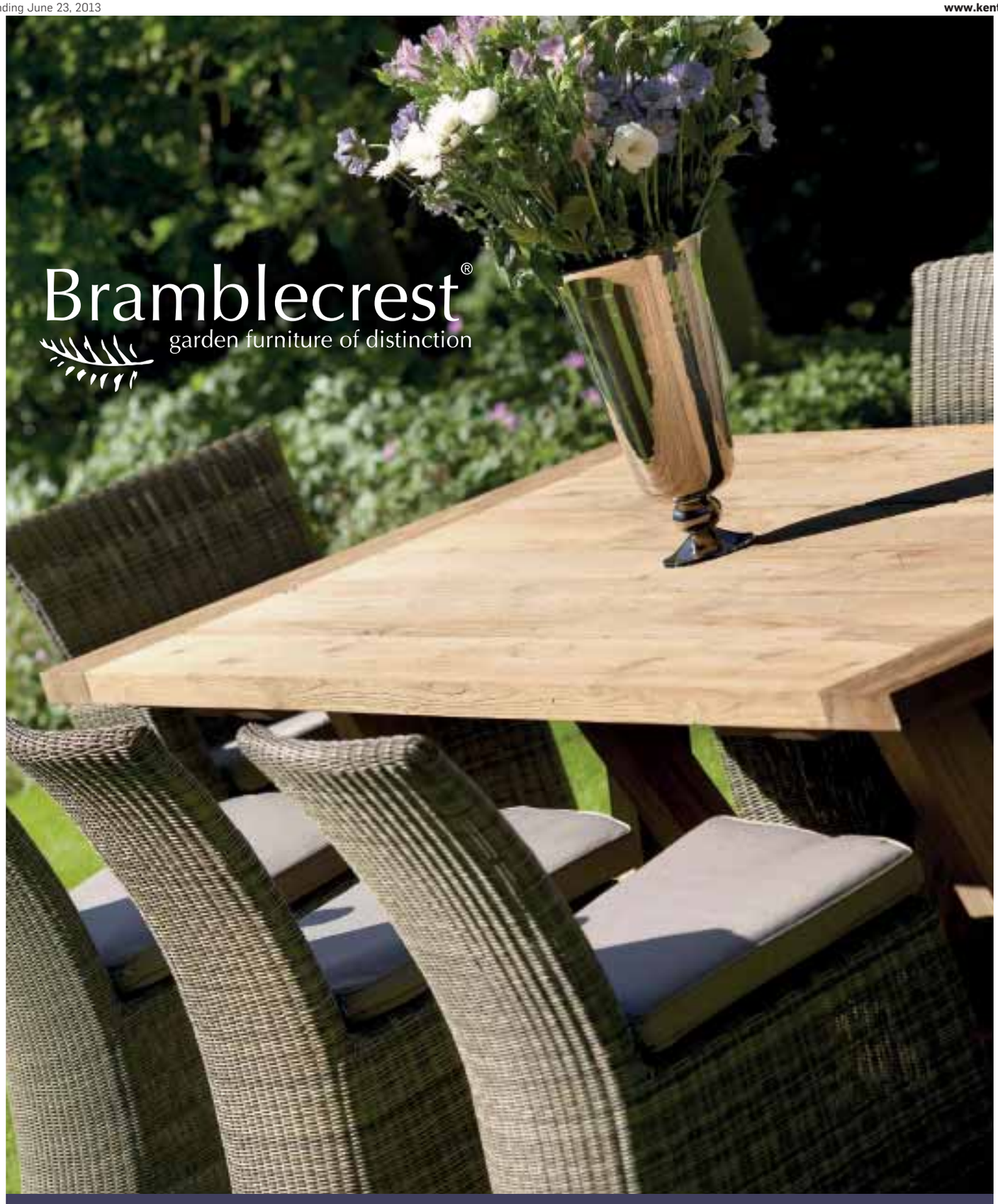
Children must be encouraged to grow things and, my word, some funny-shaped pumpkins have been produced... and for novel uses, too.

For those who send an A4 stamped, self-addressed envelope to me at Victoriana Nursery Gardens, Buck Street, Challock TN25 4DG, I shall return ***a packet of radishes for kiddies to grow*** – so quick and easy at this time of year.

In some respects, this could be deemed as my

Continued on page 51





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Encouraging children to dig into the garden is a top investment in their future interests

Continued from page 49

subliminal advertising, similar to the 1960s and 70s, when young children visited our original nurseries and went away with a free tiny conifer or other plants. Many as adults are our garden friends of today.

No one can dispute that onions are good for you and particularly the heart. So here's another small gift – **a packet of Siberian red-onion seeds** to sow now. Same package and address as with the radishes, please!

Is it too late for bulbing onions? Yes! What we offer is known botanically as *Allium fistulosum* and grows like very large chives with individual shoots about one centimetre in diameter.

Allow them to establish as a clump and just remove three or four shoots at a time, using a fork to ease them out of the ground.

You will find they are perennial and multiply – use them as spring onions and in stews, soups, stir-fries and so much more. Such a worthwhile and easily-grown onion! Sometimes referred to as Welsh onions, they have crimson shoots.

Onions contain cyclic sulphur that is so beneficial to the heart and in stress relief due to the carminative effect. Stamina, vigour and vitality are enhanced and native Africans eat onions to overcome fatigue from walking great distances to fetch water. Two drops of onion juice in the ear will give instant relief from ear-ache prior to seeking medical advice as to the cause.



HAVE FUN: Children have been encouraged to grow and decorate some unusual squashes

It is not too late to make immediate sowings of peas. The Victorian climbing pea Douce Provence is very tasty – it's like the French petit pois but larger – or Waverex, the sweetest eating pea of all.

You can also sow a variety of mange tout such as Carouby de Mausanne. Traditional gardeners may say 'Too late, chum!', but they would be wrong. This is because the season is still running six to seven weeks behind and in consequence, with warmer nights and soil temperatures, everything will now grow faster – just look at the weeds.

Most people have experienced trouble with pigeons that have been encouraged by townies feeding them. Old CDs are a very good, cheap and easy deterrent. Suspended from strings tied to canes or sticks at an angle, the reflecting light disorientates their eyesight... as I have found.

I know I am not liked by some in the aquatic trade who say that you must have expensive filters, pumps and UV lights to keep your pond clear of strangling blanket weed or to clear pea-soup pond-water, but the underside of water-lily leaves filters out all algae-inducing micro-nutrients.

My son's nursery does everything nature's way with no use of chemicals.

Well, it's happened again! No one won the prize of £25 worth of plants for guessing the author of the piece I quoted last month that commenced "My English and Latin is lacking, my spelling is sometimes worse...".

Lots of folk may well have the book I published and distributed nationwide from 1973 onwards entitled Escapism, now out of print and of which I have only the one copy. Stephen told me he had seen it for sale on eBay.

Anyway, no such competition this month – just the seeds and radishes offers.

On that note, I will sign off. Who was the radio comedian who always signed off in a miserable voice with "It's being so cheerful as keeps me going"? Oh, happy days!

Blessings and good wishes, Jerry.

■ **Jeremy Shirley developed Challock's Victoriana Nursery Gardens; you can visit www.victorianannursery.co.uk to find out more.**

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Saving water does not mean leaving your garden dry

Top tips to help you conserve this vital resource

THE seemingly unending wet weather of 2012 made water restrictions unlikely this year, but people in Kent are still being urged to save water, both conserving a scarce resource and protecting the county's environment.

The strong message comes from Affinity Water, which supplies water to more than 3.5 million people in southern England, including the Folkestone and Dover area.

Mike Pocock, Affinity Water's water resources manager, said: "Following the heavy rainfall over the last year, groundwater levels in our aquifers are above average and we do not anticipate any restrictions for 2013.

"However, we continue to ask our customers to use water wisely. Not only is this good for the environment, but it will also save them energy and money."

With gardeners now putting in summer bedding plants, Affinity Water is offering the following top tips on how to grow healthy plants while saving money by avoiding over-watering.

- Choose plants that thrive in dry conditions, such as lavender, marigolds and cornflowers. Look for the full sun symbol on the plant labels when buying new plants as this indicates their tolerance to dry conditions.
- Move containers, hanging baskets and pots into shady areas.
- Mow at 4cm, which will encourage growth and reduce evaporation.
- Water your pots and hanging baskets in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- Use a water butt – a great way to save money on metered bills.
- Use gel crystals in your pots to help retain the moisture in the soil.
- Bury a short length of pipe in pots to send water directly to roots, where the plant needs it most.
- Use mulches like bark chips on flower beds to retain moisture and keep down weeds.
- **Visit www.affinitywater.co.uk/savewater for more advice about water efficiency and to buy discounted products.**



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Pressure mounting on the retail sector as inflation rises

BUSINESS chiefs say the latest inflation figures this week will hit the retail sector "particularly hard" in an environment where many are already struggling.

The Office for National Statistics revealed on Tuesday the rate of the consumer price index had increased to 2.7 per cent in May – higher than analysts had predicted. It came to 2.4 per cent in April.

The Bank of England expects inflation to exceed three per cent this year.

The ONS said this was largely driven by increases in air travel and motor fuel costs.

Roger House, chairman for the Kent and Medway arm of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), said: "FSB data released this week shows more firms are being hit by rising costs, with utility and fuel costs being the key drivers. The 2.7 per cent rise will be a concern for businesses that costs will rise further in the coming months.

"Inflation is unlikely to fall in the near future, which will put pressure on Kent business and household finances. It also further increases the divide between living costs and wages which is acting as a drag on the economy and hitting the retail sector."

Firms fined over death

A GRANDFATHER who plunged to his death as he fixed a leak in the roof of a warehouse in Dover died because safety measures were neglected, a court has heard.

Robert 'Bob' Rogers, 61, fell six metres through a skylight on November 16, 2010.

Mr Rogers was working for Richard Parker, trading as Ovenden Engineering, which had been contracted by Allied Domecq Spirits and Wine Ltd to fix a leak in the roof and clean the gutters of their bonded warehouse in Dover.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted Richard Parker, of Folkestone, and Allied Domecq Spirits and Wine Ltd, trading as CG Hibbert Ltd, of west London, for safety breaches.

Richard Parker was on Tuesday fined £26,667 and ordered to pay £4,000 in costs after admitting breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Allied Domecq Spirits and Wine Ltd, of west London, was fined £266,677 with costs of £10,752 after admitting breaching Section 3(1) of the same Act. Both defendants had entered guilty pleas in April.

If you have a business story, then we would like to hear from you. Telephone the newsdesk on **01303 817000**, or alternatively email your story to **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

International networking gets a boost with trains to Germany

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EUROTUNNEL has secured perhaps one of the most significant deals in its history after it agreed terms to allow a German rail service to use its cross-Channel route.

Since it opened some 20 years ago, only two services have used the tunnel; Eurotunnel's own car and freight shuttle service, and the Eurostar high-speed train linking London to the likes of Paris and Brussels, via Kent stations in Ashford and Ebbsfleet.

Eurostar pays to use the tunnel but, up until now, has been the only passenger service operating between cities.

Now a new name will be added to the list, after Deutsche Bahn – the largest railway operator and infrastructure owner in Europe – agreed to run services between the UK and northern Europe.

Previous fears that continental trains would not be able to use the UK rails have also been ruled out, with Eurotunnel bosses confirming "adjustments to the timetable and modifications to the paths through the tunnel will suffice to accommodate the new traffic".

It means a London to Frankfurt service could be up and running as soon as next year.

It will be news warmly welcomed by business travellers in the county for whom the Kent stations provide essential links to mainland Europe, while also further enhancing the county as a place for businesses looking to relocate.

Talks between Eurotunnel and DB have been on-going for years. In 2010 it ran a test service of one of its ICE high-speed services to London's St Pancras International terminal.

Now, after three years of detailed study, the Intergovernmental Commission has granted the German firm an operating certificate to run passenger services through the Channel Tunnel.



DEUTSCHE BAHN

A major player on the international travel scene, the literal translation of Deutsche Bahn is Germany Railway; it emerged as the successor to the former state railways of East and West Germany in 1994.

Based in Berlin as a private joint-stock company, its majority shareholder is Germany's federal government.

Today it carries around two billion passengers a year.

WHAT IS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION (IGC)?

The IGC was set up to supervise, in the name and on behalf of the governments of France and England, all matters concerning the construction and operation of the Channel Tunnel fixed link.

It describes itself as the "conduit for discussion between the public services of the two states involved with the fixed link".

It oversees safety and has an economic regulatory role.

It is expected to lay the groundwork for additional services to Germany and Holland with up to four million new passengers using the service every year. Already, some 10m use the existing high-speed services.

A spokesman for Eurotunnel explained: "The request by one of the foremost railway operators to open up direct services via the Channel Tunnel is proof of the significant attraction the infrastructure offers.

"The Channel Tunnel provides a route that is fast, reliable and competitive. Groupe Eurotunnel's access charges, set out by the two states in 1987 under the framework of the Railway Usage Contract (RUC), which runs until 2052, are particularly favourable to the development of new services. Based principally on a charge per passenger, they limit start-up costs for new operators whilst they build up their load factors."

Jacques Gounon, chairman and chief executive officer of Groupe Eurotunnel SA, added: "Twenty years after the start of commercial services, the authorities have finally opened the Channel Tunnel to all.

"This is wonderful news for the millions of passengers in northern Europe who can now use this most environmentally friendly means of transport to travel to London."

Post Office hits out at CWU industrial call to arms

POST Office chiefs have hit out at calls by a union for strike action, while insisting they remain committed to maintaining service for customers in Whitstable and Margate.

The Communication Workers' Union called for two days of strike action - one on Thursday, June 20, and Saturday, June 29, as part of an on-going dispute over closures, job security and pay.

Both the main Whitstable post office in Gladstone Road and the Margate branch in Cecil Square face closure, with the post office counter instead moving inside a local shop.

Both outlets are currently known as Crown offices as they are run directly by Post Office Ltd. In order to keep costs and losses down, the Post Office is keen to see more and more share premises with retailers.

However, there has been stiff opposition in both towns to the move.

Kevin Gilliland, network and sales director at the Post Office, said: "We are disappointed at the CWU's decision to call further strike action. We must continue with our plans to turn around the Crown network to ensure we keep these branches on high streets and in city centres across the UK.

"We remain open to discussions with the CWU on pay options which do not add to the current loss of public money."

The Post Office stressed its proposal to partner with a retailer is the best option to ensure the long-term viability of Whitstable and Margate post offices and to maintain services for its customers. Any new branch would offer access to the same products.

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Future generation to get inspired as duo pick up honourary awards



CEREMONY: Graduation day

TURNER Contemporary director Victoria Pomery OBE, and internationally-renowned fashion designer Margaret Howell CBE will both receive honorary awards from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) at the Royal Festival Hall this month.

Ms Pomery will receive an honorary Master of Arts on June 25 at the ceremony for students from the Canterbury and Rochester campuses.

Ms Howell will be awarded an honourary professorship to mark her contribution to fashion design.

She will pick up her award at the Maidstone campus ceremony.

UCA vice-chancellor, Simon Ofield-Kerr, said: "I am delighted to be honouring such talented and dedicated individuals at this year's graduation ceremonies.

"They will act as a real inspiration to the students graduating this year."

Uni building hits the right note with top RIBA award

The University of Kent's Colyer-Fergusson Music Building has won a RIBA (Royal Institution of British Architects) National Award 2013.

It is one of only two buildings in the south east to win one of the awards for architectural excellence and one of 43 to win nationally.

It will now go forward for RIBA's top award, the Stirling Prize, with the shortlist being announced on July 18.

Meet the staff during college's open morning

BROMLEY College stages an open day next weekend giving prospective students the chance to meet staff and tour the site prior to starting a course in September.

Taking place between 10am and noon on Saturday, June 29, courses on offer will range from vocational, apprenticeship, A-level, higher education and professional courses.

The Bromley campus is based in Rookery Lane. For details see www.bromley.ac.uk.





HONOUR: MidKent College's Stephen Grix is to collect an OBE for his services to further education

Bricklayer who became principal gets an OBE

WHEN Stephen Grix first turned up on the steps of MidKent College's former City Way campus in Chatham, he can barely have imagined just how the establishment would play such a significant role in his life.

Back in 1971, he had enrolled as a day-release bricklaying student - his ambitions stretching to the hard graft of the builders' site.

Yet 40 years later he would stand not at the bottom of the steps but at the very top of a college which continues to play such a key role in Medway's rejuvenation.

And last week he saw all those years rewarded after finding himself on the Queen's Birthday Honours' List.

Mr Grix, who is now the principal at MidKent College, was awarded an OBE for his services to further education.

He said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to have been awarded an OBE for doing a job I love and which I am extremely passionate about.

"I had a tough time at school and left at 15 with no formal qualifications, but thanks to further education I was able to build a career that eventually led me to where I am today.

"I hope my story demonstrates to young people that school is not the only option available to them. Many students are far more suited to the vocational style of learning that MidKent College can provide."

Mr Grix rejoined MidKent College in 2005 having studied there more than 30 years earlier.

The father-of-three moved into teaching in his twenties and returned to MidKent College to study for an education degree before subsequently moving on to gain a master's degree in education management.

Mr Grix went on to become principal of Sir George Monoux College in Walthamstow, north-east London, and then head of Ofsted's post-compulsory education division.

He also took a role as director of education for the London borough of Tower Hamlets before finally returning to MidKent College as principal and chief executive in March 2005.

Mr Grix is due to step down as principal at the end of the current academic year but will continue as chief executive on a part-time basis until 2015.

He will be replaced as principal by Sue McLeod.

She joined the college as a travel and tourism lecturer in 1993 before climbing the ranks to her current position of deputy principal.

She will start her new job on September 1 and will become the first woman to be principal at the college.

Prior to joining the college, Ms McLeod worked across the Caribbean, United States and Europe during her time in the travel industry, including a stint aboard cruise liners.

She previously achieved a degree in business studies at the Dorset Institute of Higher Education prior to embarking on her teaching career with MidKent College.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Postgraduate employers in contest boost

BUSINESSES in Kent employing postgraduate students are invited to enter the inaugural Prospects Postgraduate Awards, offering opportunities for strengthening their position and relationships in the field.

The Best Business Partner Award recognises and rewards successful collaborations between employers and universities to ensure that postgraduate courses meet the needs of business.

It is one of eight categories, which span campaigns, agencies and businesses.

Mike Hill, chief executive of Graduate Prospects, the education publisher behind the awards, said: "Many businesses in the south east have established relationships with their local universities to support their talent pool and build for the future.

"They are also working hard to educate institutions about their sector and skills requirements to better equip graduates for the world of work. The Best Business Partner will demonstrate a cohesive and integrated approach to employability, bridging the gap between education and industry."

Entries must be completed by September 6.

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on November 19.





DESTRUCTION: Faversham Linen Services was physically destroyed by the fire, but the firm's files were saved thanks to some savvy IT investment

Disaster recovery enables firm to rise from the ashes

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IN THE early hours of June 12 a fire started in a commercial laundry in Faversham.

With frightening speed it spread across the site causing destruction to everything which came into its path.

What was once a thriving business – whose client list included the Orient Express and a host of hotels and restaurants – was obliterated.

Yet, in what may prove to be the finest example yet of ensuring your data back-up systems are well maintained, within hours, staff were able to retrieve all the essential customer information and get the wheels of business turning once more.

It is a tale which may just be enough to persuade the tired business director of big and small firms alike across the county, who receive a daily diet of calls and letters trying to sell them an IT solution, to give consideration to the possible benefits.

So just how did the experience of Faversham Linen Services, which employs some 100 staff, come about?

Access IT, based in nearby Boughton, has worked closely with the firm as an off-site technical partner for many years and had managed the technical side of its recent multi-million pound project to update and expand the machinery the firm used and its IT system.

As part of that system was a disaster recovery plan, designed to ensure information was not lost if the worst happened so a business could continue.

Explains Mark Henwood of Access IT: "We got onto the site once the fire brigade gave us the all clear, and we were able to recover some of the equipment that had been in the adjacent offices and bring them back to our premises.

"They were a bit scorched and smoke damaged, but nevertheless we recovered the entire system.

"We set up a temporary office for staff later that morning. This meant they were able to start contacting customers and initiating contingency plans to shift the laundry work elsewhere within a couple of hours of the fire."

The cost of the fire was significant, however.

Up in smoke was all the new machinery – twisted metal the only remains.

Its entire linen stock was destroyed – which for a firm capable of handling 300,000 items a week, was significant.

Such was the severity of the fire, emergency crews had to remain on scene for more than 24-hours to keep damping down the smouldering wreckage. In fact, small fires were still breaking out some three days later.

Adds Mr Henwood: "We have been repairing the consequences of failed recovery systems for many years and have seen the devastating aftermath to a business.

"By far the best course of action is to test the system as a matter of course. What price is peace of mind?"

The cause of the laundry business fire continues to be investigated.

Amateur competition is above par for county

THIS week's 118th Amateur Championship golf tournament is set to inject some £500,000 into the local economy, according to a major study.

The event has been running all week at the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Deal and Prince's in Sandwich.

With 288 competitors from 33 countries battling it out for glory, the prize is a place at this year's Open Championship in Muirfield and next year's US Open at Pinehurst, North Carolina. Traditionally, an invitation is also extended to play in the following year's Masters Tournament at Augusta.

But the county will continue to feel the economic benefits, according to an independent event impact study from Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre.

The research reveals almost 3,500 commercial bed nights are required to host the week-long event which brings in additional spending on food and drink, transport and through local supplier contracts.



A further tourism promotion benefit will be derived from TV highlights of the final three days of the championship that will reach 150 million households across Europe, America, Asia and Oceania.

Sport and tourism minister, and Kent MP for Faversham, Hugh Robertson, said: "Hosting the championship in Kent this week will help give local businesses in the county a boost from the additional tourism trade."

The event concludes on Sunday. Highlights will be on Sky Sports.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Tesco raise a glass in bid for pub permission

A DECISION is due soon on proposals by supermarket giant Tesco to open a new store in Tunbridge Wells.

It has put forward proposals to the local council to open a Tesco Express store on the site of the Kelsey Arms pub on St John's Road.

The chain admitted it was interested in the site last December after the pub closed its doors for the last time in November.

Price wars erupt in the cross-Channel market

MYFERRYLINK has fired the latest shots in the battle for cross-Channel traffic after launching a price promise vowing to be the cheapest service.

It comes just weeks after the Competition Commission said the operator must cease its Dover to Calais operations.

Its new price promise guarantees if a customer finds a lower fare elsewhere for a 'like for like' booking they will be refunded or price matched.

Farm secures big loan to allow for investment

A FRUIT farm hopes to harvest the benefits of securing a £390,000 investment from its bank to allow it to boost its offering.

Rankins Farm in Linton, near Maidstone, is investing the money in developing specialist cold stores to allow it to safeguard crops and better meet demand.

The loan from NatWest is backed by the Government's Funding for Lending scheme.

Next to open massive new store next to M20

RETAIL giant Next has been given the nod to build a major new store just off the M20 at Maidstone.

The £9million store at the Eclipse Park will create nearly 140 jobs - the majority of them part-time.

However, it will mean the closure of its branch in the Mall Chequers. It intends to keep its outlet in Fremlin Walk open.

Charity sinks roots for job creation service

A CHARITY is appealing for donations to help it get a woodland management business off the ground.

The Kent Woodland Employment Scheme aims to recruit ex-service personnel, young people and ex-offenders to help woodland management in Kent's ancient woodlands.

The charity is working with Royal British Legion Industries and Kent County Council.

Business centre open for tenants in Chatham

MP MARK Reckless was among the local dignitaries to attend the opening of the Cambridge House Business Centre in Chatham.

Originally snapped up to house the 11 Plus Academy tutoring service and accountancy firm Sollertia, the additional office space at the property in Cambridge Terrace is now being offered to small and medium-sized firms.

The building was opened on Thursday.

Skilful Kent

It's never too late to develop your skill set and

Ryan scoops entrepreneur top prize in development skills competition

A STUDENT at the University of Kent who came up with the idea of customising the appearance of asthma inhalers to make them more child-friendly, has won a top business award.

Ryan England was named the university's Student Entrepreneur of the Year at its annual Employability Points rewards scheme ceremony.

He was one of nearly 2,500 participants in the scheme that serves to encourage, support and enhance the extracurricular personal and work-skills development of individual students through active engagement in a range of self-selected activities.

These include student mentoring, volunteering, part-time employment, international study and language study. Points are then awarded for each activity and at the end-of-year ceremony students with the highest points are presented with prizes such as training programmes, paid internships and vouchers, all of which are sponsored by organisations or companies.

Coca-Cola Enterprises, Tesco and Enterprise Rent-a-Car are among the 111 leading companies and organisations who offered work experience, internships and skills development sessions as prizes under this year's EP scheme.

Online search tool hopes to marry jobseekers with future employers

A FREE online tool has been launched to help MidKent College students and the wider public find local job opportunities.

Career Coach gathers up-to-date information on wages, vacancies, and education and training opportunities to ensure jobseekers stand the best chance of finding the employment that is right for them.

Project coordinator Nigel Hurley said: "Career Coach is most useful if you have an idea of the type of work you want to do, as it enables you to explore local demand for employees in your chosen sector.

"The tool will also show you the type of qualifications you might need to access the job you are looking for, many of which are at MidKent College."

Visit careercoach.midkent.ac.uk to access the public version of Career Coach or call 01634 383300 to discuss your options.







there are plenty of opportunities across Kent to enhance your career and education prospects

As race hots up to develop skills of future generation, youngsters weigh up options

TACKLING the issue of engaging youngsters in order to prepare them for the workplace is one which is testing the resources of schools, colleges, employers and the Government alike.

And with more than 10 per cent of 16-18 year olds in the UK not in employment, education or training - what has become dubbed Neets - the problem shows little sign of easing.

With new regulations soon to come into force which will keep youngsters in full-time education until they are 18, the competition to provide a platform for youngsters into higher education or the employment world is going to be greater than ever.

Already colleges have started rolling out major campaigns designed to highlight that it is not just schools that youngsters can enrol at.

With each student carrying a bounty over their heads in terms of the funding it accesses from Government, you can expect to see the jockeying for position continue as we head towards the end of the academic year.

Where colleges were once the specialists when it came to providing vocational courses, schools are only too aware they must now offer similar courses in order to appeal to those youngsters who would normally step out of education at 16.

Sue Macleod, deputy principal of MidKent College, is aware of the bombardment youngsters face.

She explains: "It is important people realise the raising of the leaving age does not mean youngsters have to stay at school. They can also switch to college.

"Many of our courses are vocational or occupational which means when our students leave us they are more employable."

But it's not just schools and colleges who are bidding to secure youngsters.

Training specialist Parenta has launched a new Ready to Work programme, with the intention of getting youngsters into work or on to education courses.

Nick Williams is co-founder of Parenta, which is based in Maidstone. He explains: "We have created Ready To Work to help young people back into education or assist them in getting a job via training.

"It has been specifically designed to offer a more relaxed and comfortable learning environment than the ones young people are used to.

"The shorter course format will also make it more fun to attend and should lead to much higher sign-up and attendance levels.

"The friendly atmosphere will help to re-engage 16-18 year olds, provide them with an aspirational culture and deliver exactly what they feel is lacking from the traditional learning environments."

Motoring out of the classroom in practical test

TEAMS from across the county gathered at K College to battle it out in an inaugural mechanics competition.

Organised by the Kent Association of Further Education Colleges (KAFEC), and hosted at K College's North Farm campus in Tunbridge Wells, it offered mechanics who are on full time training courses the chance to test their skills against those at other colleges.

And it was the hosts who managed to beat off rivals from MidKent, East Kent and North West colleges in tests ranging from dismantling, measuring and checking front brake discs and pads, refitting the engine camshaft drive belt and a team quiz.

As part of their prize, event sponsor Snap-on Industrial has planned for the winning team to spend a day with the Honda race team at the qualifying day of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) this autumn, where the student mechanics will get to see the pit lane, chat with the technical support team and have lunch with the drivers Gordon Sheddon and Matt Neal.

Lauren Anning, at KAFEC, said: "This is the first year we've done this, I hope we can do even better next year."





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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Vauxhall's Insignia has a price rethink
- Skoda pulls itself to motoring recognition
- Jaguar has its sights set on green success



Kia comes up with the goods as new MPV is one to want

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



DACIA LOGAN PREVIEW

Price: from £6,995
Driving appeal: Preview only
Image: ★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Skoda Fabia Estate

Logan runs back to the future

WE should be used to the expression 'most affordable' on hearing news from Renault's Romanian budget brand, Dacia.

After most affordable car (Sandero supermini) and most affordable SUV (Duster) comes the UK market's cheapest estate car and possibly greatest bargain of all, the Logan.

Happy to describe it as an estate, Dacia also uses the term MCV – maximum capacity vehicle – perhaps suggesting that the Duster might pioneer a new sector, as the Nissan Qashqai did for the crossover segment.

But I'm having a back-to-the-future moment here and recalling those big 'family estates' once so popular with French rural families.

There's also a hint of Fiat's 2005 Croma, a blend of estate car and MPV that was maybe a bit too pricey and lasted just two years in the UK.

Where the Logan differs from the Fiat is in an almost-laughable £6,995 no-frills start price, moving up to a flagship costing just £10,795.

It's a powerful temptation for budget-conscious families or tradesmen who don't want the bulk of an MPV but need space; the Logan's 573-litre boot with rear seats up and a 1,518-litre load bay with them down compares well with the 537/1,728 litres offered by the spacious but rather more pricey Ford Mondeo Estate (from £17,245).

And the Logan has lots of interior stowage: 16 litres of door bins, cubbies and so on.

Dacia has also avoided the usual cop-out on base models and made a two-thirds/one-third split/folding rear bench standard on all versions.

But you will pay extra for a sound system and many of the creature comforts we take for granted; air-con, for instance, is standard only on flagship Laureate models (from £8,995) and alloys are £425 extra whichever model you choose.

Most buyers will probably put their money into a mid-range Ambiance model (from £7,595) and get most of what they expect, plus all the practicality they need from the Logan's capacious body.

And they won't be suffering an engine that comes with a bag of nails as standard; Renault's brotherly largesse is clear from modern powertrains, including one of the French marque's renowned 1.5dCi diesel units (from £9,395) delivering 90bhp and decent performance, an official combined 74.3mpg and a road-tax-exempt 99g/km of CO_2 emissions. It's the standout engine choice here.

However, the Logan is also offered with Renault's modern turbocharged 0.9-litre petrol unit (from £8,395), saving £1,000 up front against the diesel and still delivering 56.5mpg (combined) and the best performance, with a 0-62mph in 11.1 seconds.

Real bargain-hunters may still fancy the entry-level 75bhp 1.2-litre petrol, but sluggish acceleration (0-62mph in 14.5 seconds) suggests it might be too lightweight for a car bought to be loaded to the gunwhales on occasion.



A BIG FUTURE: Dacia describes its new Logan estate as an MCV – maximum capacity vehicle – and with its spacious interior and bargain price it's sure to be popular with bargain-hunting buyers

DON'T LIKE

... the sheer poverty of the entry model, but it's really a showroom banner to tempt people to check out the more sensible Logan versions.

NOT SURE

... Dacia can overcome the badge-snob culture that, surprisingly, still lingers post-recession. But the Logan will sell well enough to pragmatists.

REALLY LIKE

... the sensible thinking behind the Logan, highlighting that we tend to pay more for over-engineered, over-equipped cars we don't need.

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Representative	12.6%APR

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12 12	**Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D TR 4dr S/Tourer,** Silver, 20,184 miles, **Was £15,495,** Save £1,201	£14,294
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Carens highlights Kia revolution

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DESIGN guru Peter Schreyer has transformed Kia's cars and image since the Korean marque hired him in 2006.

The German, famous for influencing groundbreakers like the first Audi TT and the 1997-2011 VW New Beetle, said Kias had suffered from being too 'neutral' on the road. He changed this anonymity with fresh designs plus a new corporate front end, dubbed 'the tiger nose'.

This transformation was obvious with flagship designs such as the stylish Ceed hatchback, racy Optima saloon or imposing Sportage SUV, but it is models not expected to make an impact that really highlight the 'Schreyer effect'.

Such as the latest Carens MPV, a car that not only means Schreyer has now revolutionised the entire Kia line-up but also shows how functionality need not lack style and class.

With seven seats as standard and priced from £17,895, it's easy to agree with Kia's claim that it is an MPV people want to own rather than buy out of necessity.

Not that versatility has been sacrificed for looks; a 50mm-longer wheelbase and lower seat positions mean it more than matches rivals for space, offering good head, leg and shoulder room for all three seat rows, plus more luggage space and a lower loading lip.

Three individual sliding and reclining centre-row seats replace a split bench, and all five rear seats plus the front passenger seat fold flat.

There is also an underfloor boot compartment where the cargo screen can be stowed when not needed – a real boon for those who only occasionally use seats six and seven.

The classy, glassy cabin has the high-quality finish we now expect from Kia – something the marque was working on even before Schreyer's clean sweep on design. Access and comfort for the two rearmost seats are tight, but that's something shared with almost all MPVs of this scale.

KIA CARENS 3 1.7CRDI 134BHP: PRICE £23,895



STYLE GURU: Kia claims its Carens MPV is an MPV that people want to own rather than buy out of necessity – and on closer inspection it is easy to see why, with room to seat seven and a high-spec interior that adds to the car's comfort and style

Why no five-seat option this time? Kia says the new Carens footprint is hardly bigger than rival five-seaters and if you need only five seats in place it's quick and easy to fold two without needing to lug them from the car. It has also removed the need for Kia's larger Sedona model, phased out in line with falling demand for big MPVs.

Refinement is excellent, particularly on the motorway, and selectable levels for the power-steering weight are useful for different situations such as tight parking spaces.

However, like most MPVs, the Carens's height and need for comfort fully laden mean it leans a little on heavy cornering. So those who like to press on might favour Ford's seven-seat C-Max – if they can stand the styling.

A choice of three direct injection engines is offered for the Carens: a 133bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit capable of 44.1mpg on the official combined cycle, and 1.7-litre diesels delivering 114 and 134bhp with 60.1mpg and 56.4mpg combined respectively.

We tested the flagship diesel and found it a refined all-rounder, although the lower-output version and mid-range Carens 2 spec is proving to be the best-seller in the range.

All manual gearbox versions have Kia's Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) engine stop-start system to cut emissions and fuel consumption.

Standard specification is typically generous – on top of Kia's usual seven-year/100,000-mile warranty – and includes projection headlights with cornering lamps, LED daytime running lamps, heated door mirrors, adjustable driver's seat height and steering wheel, leather-trimmed wheel and gearshift, air-con, rear air-ventilation, steering-wheel-mounted controls, electric windows, cruise-control, six-speaker sound system with MP3 compatibility, and Bluetooth with voice recognition and music streaming.

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£125/year
Best rival:	Ford C-Max

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Insignia price book rewritten

FIVE years after a spectacular 2008 launch, when it was European Car of the Year, Vauxhall's Insignia has been upgraded, gaining a new dashboard and controls, plus refreshed styling. Prices start at just £16,279 – almost £2,000 less than currently.

Four new engines include an efficient road-tax-exempt 2.0-litre diesel, with road-tax-beating CO_2 emissions of just 99g/km.



Tow star award for the Octavia

SKODA'S newly-launched third-generation Octavia has been named Tow Car of the Year – the ultimate prize at the annual Tow Car Awards created by Practical Caravan and What Car? magazines and The Camping and Caravanning Club.

It's the new Octavia's first award – surely not the last – and followed on from taking the towing awards' Up to 1,424kg' category as well.



Jaguar has a new eco star

LUXURY, performance and refinement have landed awards for Jaguar's XF saloon and Sportbrake estate line-up, but it's now bidding to be an environmental star, with a four-cylinder, 2.2-litre diesel 163PS (160bhp) ECO2 engine.

This tax-efficient version offers 57.7mpg (official) fuel consumption, with 129g/km of CO_2 emissions, helped by an Intelligent Stop-Start system.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

Available on selected models only, at participating retailers. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall retailer for details. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee / Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH11SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. ** Vauxhall Deposit Contribution excludes ADAM, Mokka, Cascada and Corsa SXi models. †24-60 month term, excluding ADAM models (24-48 month term). Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Vauxhall Lifetime warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Offer(s) available on orders or registrations before 1 July 2013. Images may show models with brilliant/metallic or pearlescent/premium paint, optional at extra costs (£250/£525/£995). We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received.

5576



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Awards 2012 Which? Best Car Manufacturer

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the new Kia Carens range are: Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 68.9 (4.1), Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 60.1 (4.7). CO_2 emissions are 159 – 124 g/km. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk or contact your local dealer. Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. *Prices shown include £1,000 Early Buyer Reward and exclude optional metallic paint at £495. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 May and 30 June 2013.

5918

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5586(KOS)

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Models shown: ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Sleek Silver metallic paint with £499 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 Auto: Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 43.6 (6.5), CO_2 Emissions 154 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km.

Main Dealer Servicing

Time to understand what 'FMDSH' could mean when you sell



TICKED: Citroën's DS3 – worth protecting with a full main dealer service history

EVER scanned a used-car ad and wondered what on Earth the seller means by DSH, MDSH or FMDSH?

They are all short-hand for variations on the theme 'dealer service history', with FMDSH being the ultimate and standing for 'full main dealer service history'.

Does it matter? Well, many new-car-owners think it does, to protect future part-exchange or second-hand values of their cherished motor, since used-car-buyers will happily pay a premium for a complete and unblemished main dealer service history.

Cynics might argue: "Ah, but you wiped out that perceived premium by paying more for your main dealer servicing while you owned the car." It's a point, but main dealers specialise in servicing their own models, while 'all makes' service sites must spread their expertise more thinly.

And franchised dealers, having seen sales profits squeezed ever more tightly, have chosen to market servicing more aggressively.

They have become more cost-effective and introduced competitive pricing on items like tyres – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres.

Happy service customers keep coming back, too, bringing immediate revenue and the possibility that they might buy another new car soon.

Third-party sources also support the wisdom of keeping your new car in the franchise family.

Media motoring guru Honest John really was honest with a BMW-owner who considered using an independent garage to maintain his car.

He said: "After independent servicing, you will get a lower part-ex price from a BMW-dealer and it will go to auction.

"If the car has a full dealer service history and is in retail condition, you will get a higher price. The difference will normally be worth more than you save on maintenance."

Motor Trade Insider website polled several professional motor traders, who collectively buy 5,000 cars per year for main dealers. The simple question was...

"If you were asked to bid on a three-year-old variant of one of your models with average mileage and spec, would you value it any less if it had three KwikFit/Halfords/Tesco *etc* stamps against three stamps from the franchise representing the car?"

The site continued: "The results in some cases were staggering: the Ford and VW buyers said they would value a car like this £800-£1,000 less.

"The Jaguar buyer said it would need to be £1,500 to £2,000 less and, amazingly, the BMW and Mercedes boys said they probably just wouldn't want to buy it!"

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ŠKODA

People and prices... well worth knowing

We believe that ŠKODA servicing and maintenance is best carried out by real people who take real pride in what they do – people who eat, drink and sleep ŠKODAs. We also firmly believe that our prices should be just as genuine – where the price you see is the price you'll pay.

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All models	£249

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All models	£45
Aircon service	
All models	£69
Front or rear brake pads	
All models	£99
Rear brake pads & discs	
All models	£189
Front brake pads & discs	
Fabia	£189
Other models (not Fabia or vRS)	£209
Fabia vRS / Octavia vRS	£249
Cambelt change*	
Fabia	£299
All other models	£349
Plus replacement water pump, if required	£100



For ŠKODA vehicles 3 years (from first MOT) up to 10 years old, excluding V6 models. National Pricing is available to customers at participating ŠKODA retailers only. All prices are (where applicable) inclusive of standard parts, labour, oil and VAT and come with a two-year parts and labour warranty. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Further terms and conditions apply, please ask your ŠKODA retailer for details. *Includes cambelt, tensioners and rollers as required.

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Fix your servicing costs for peace of mind



ONE of the best weapons picked up by main dealers has been the fixed-price service plan.

Initially, it was a trick tried by premium brands, whose service costs were perceived as too pricey and taking advantage of an owner's natural reluctance to jeopardise the future value of the car by servicing outside the dealer network.

However, it has been increasingly successful for more mainstream brands as they battle a burgeoning independent and quick-fit sector only too happy to siphon off the steady churn of servicing work.

The plans are also flexible. To begin with, they were to cover the car's warranty period – transferable in the event of the car's sale – or on an annual basis, but many brands have followed up with monthly instalment options, recognising that many drivers like to break down their motoring budget into more manageable chunks of money.

Best advice is to ask your main dealer about the menu of schemes available and get advice on the pros and cons of each one.

The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective but necessary part of the cost of running a car.



RIGHT TOOLS FOR RIGHT JOB: Servicing high-efficiency new cars like the Nissan Qashqai crossover and trendy Kia Ceed hatchback are best left to the those mechanics with the expertise for such vehicles

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BE SURE TO KEEP IT REAL: Using a main dealer ensures that only the genuine manufacturers' parts are used when servicing cars like the versatile Skoda Yeti SUV (left) or Hyundai's sleek i40 Tourer (estate)

Is it slick to quick-fit?

SQUEEZED by the aftermath of recession and soaring fuel costs, it's no wonder that motorists try to cut financial corners at the local 'quick/fast-fit' centre.

These specialists have mushroomed as drivers battle to save money on the big motoring 'consumables': exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MoT.

But main dealers have not been sitting on their hands. They reckon that if car owners are still using their service bays, then they won't mind considering realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

A main dealer also guarantees that only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing has encouraged car owners to get bodyshop repairs done by the franchise's own unit or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from their quick-fit rivals, by offering menu pricing; this means that, like dining out, a customer can decide what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding any motoring indigestion when the bill is presented.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via a finance or servicing scheme covering several years.

Others may also offer a loyalty scheme to keep owners of older models on their books rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector, because those owners believe that the lower value of their car does not warrant the higher perceived cost of main dealer servicing.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer working hours at main dealer service centres; dealers are much more aware that many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally too so that customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available

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It is important to have your vehicle serviced and maintained regularly, in the interest of safety, reliability, efficiency and protecting value of asset with manufacturer service stamps. Once vehicles are outside manufacturers warranty we have a range of set fixed price menus to suit your vehicle's, and your pocket's needs. Prices so good they easily compete with any reputable independent garage, but using the right parts, oils and the right people and equipment.

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- Check washers and wipers
- Check engine oil
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- Fit new sump plug washer
- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs

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The right parts...genuine parts with 2yrs warranty
The right oils...the right grade and excellent quality
The right people...highly skilled team of technicians
The right service... we can provide a courtesy vehicle on Silver or Gold services, or offer while you wait service in our lounge area with free coffee, TV and wi-fi

Silver Care

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- Check operation of lights
- Check washers and wipers
- Check engine oil
- Drain and refill with engine oil
- Fit new sump plug washer
- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs
- Check suspension dampers
- Add screenwash and top up fluids
- Fit new air filter
- Check spark plugs/glow plugs

FOR PETROL ENGINES £179 ONLY

FOR DIESEL ENGINES £199 ONLY

Gold Care

- Check for any body defects
- Check operation of lights
- Check washers and wipers
- Check engine oil
- Drain and refill with engine oil
- Fit new sump plug washer
- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs
- Check suspension dampers
- Add screenwash and top up fluids
- Fit new air filter
- Check spark plugs/glow plugs
- Check rear brake pads/shoes
- Check and adjust handbrake operation
- Check and adjust clutch cable
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CHECK THIS OUT: Modern-day cars such as Peugeot's GTi 208 (right) and Hyundai's i30 can be kept in better condition if the owner regularly keeps an eye on servicing

Doing your homework all adds up in the end

MODERN cars are far more forgiving and comfortable than they were just a few years ago.

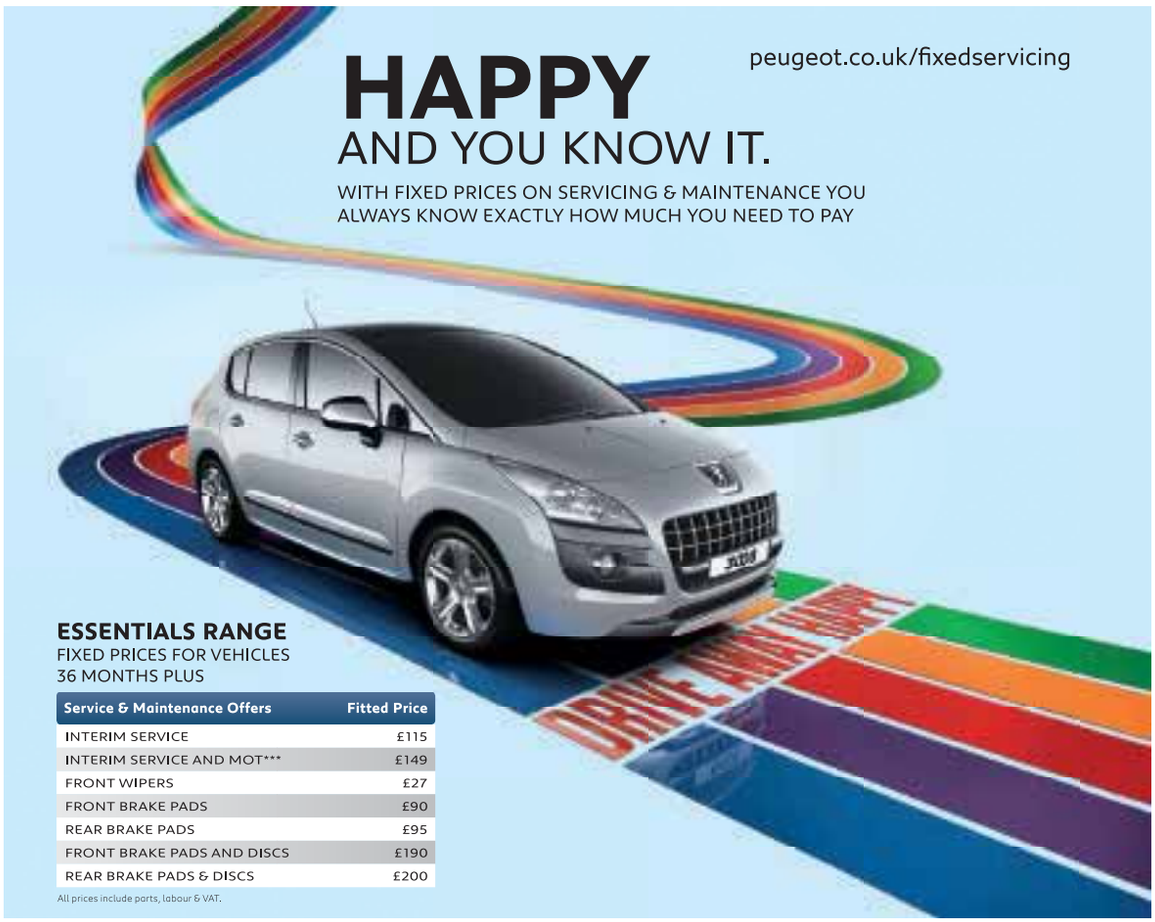
Even a sought-after enthusiast's car, like the original 1970s Peugeot 205GTi, feels primitive against its modern successor – the newly-launched 208GTi, pictured here.

The downside is that much less can be done by the DIY mechanic. Keeping the car in reliable, correct and safe condition is now more of a job for the professional and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this means that owners often ignore problems for too long and servicing is stretched beyond the recommended parameters, which also endangers the warranty and the provenance of the vehicle when you come to sell.

So, the golden rules are:

- Maintain the service record to the letter. Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and make sure that the servicing book is stamped up, although some motor marques are switching to centralised digital records so that a car's servicing record is always available if required.
- Read the warranty document thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Make sure you act on any recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- Don't rely on the MoT as insurance of the car's safety and reliability, even if has just passed with flying colours – problems can arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.
- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.
- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, and that includes the correct pressures as listed in the handbook or the sticker often placed on the driver's side-door-frame. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter when icy and wet conditions can compromise grip.
- Keep oil, windscreen-washer, coolant, power-steering and clutch and brake-fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights to come on – it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety. Some cars have an interim set of warning lights, but these can be an unwelcome reminder if you are in the middle of a long journey at the weekend and miles from a decent garage. Don't be caught out.
- Replace wiper blades. There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if the blades are worn or split. However, if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main dealer servicing, it does not mean you have to go back to the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.



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RIGHT ON TIME: Be sure you keep the service schedule up to date to maintain the warranty on your family workhorse like the Citroën C3 Picasso (above)... or perhaps a racy Alfa Romeo Giulietta (left)

It's a warranty jungle out there, so be prepared

ALL new cars come with a warranty, but they have varied enormously over the past few years.

The standard used to be three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' between carmakers has seen the years and mileages increase: Kia leads the market with seven years/100,000 miles, though sister brand Hyundai offers five years with unlimited miles.

It shows car-buyers that it's worth shopping around, though some new deals also reinforce the old advice about always checking the small print.

This will confirm exactly what the manufacturer will and will not pay for if the car breaks down within the agreed time period or mileage.

Which also makes it vital the car-owner sticks to the rules by having the car serviced according to the warranty and acts on any recall notices for unforeseen faults and problems.

Some marques are more lenient about late servicing than others, but a common pitfall is to have the car serviced only by mileage, when most manufacturers now insist the car is serviced annually if the required miles are not being covered.

You don't have to use a franchised dealer for servicing – this stipulation was thrown out by EU legislation in 2002 – but do check for caveats.

Be aware also that some marques offer the chance to extend the warranty for a reasonable cost or will 'wind back' the warranty clock to start again if you buy an approved used example from one of their dealers – not a bad option.

SOME PEOPLE PICK NUMBERS OUT OF THE AIR. **WE TELL YOU WHAT IT COSTS WITH OUR FIXED PRICE SERVICE.**

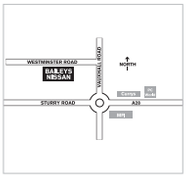
If your numbers don't come in, it can be a disappointment. When the numbers keep on changing, it's no longer a game. Quite often a repairer will alter their original quote due to an unforeseen thunder ball, but at Nissan our service prices are fixed so there are no unpleasant, surprise costs. And bingo you're back on the road.

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Fixed Price Servicing is only available for the following Nissan petrol-engined models; Pixo, Micra (K11, K12), Note, Almera, Primera, Tino, Qashqai and Qashqai +2, and the following diesel-engined models; Qashqai and Qashqai +2, X-Trail (T30 and T31), Navara (D40), and Pathfinder. All vehicles must be over three years old (from date of first registration) to qualify for Fixed Price Servicing. Please refer to the vehicle log book for your vehicle's first registration date. Fixed Price Servicing offer available at participating dealers only. Advertised prices include VAT and labour. Fixed Price Servicing offer must be mentioned at the time of booking a Fixed Price Service. Nissan reserve the right to modify the terms and conditions of the Fixed Price Servicing offer at its sole discretion at any time.

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Modern auto technicians are the masters of servicing universe



FUTURISTIC motor technology – everything from hybrids to stop-start systems to save fuel and emissions – plus a shortage of skills in the jobs market, has made the main dealer technician the key to a site's servicing operation.

Sarah Sillars, executive chair of the trade's Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), said: "The rate of technological change in the automotive industry is currently being driven by competition, consumer demands and regulation.

"This is creating a constant requirement for businesses to anticipate change and invest in training to help staff keep pace with developments."

The body has also developed a Consumer Code of Practice system to promote and maintain professional standards, while sister organisation the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) published a paper, Strengthening Skills For A Growing Economy, calling on the Government to help feed demand for the necessary skill sets and ease unemployment at the same time.

Most motor manufacturers are proactive in finding and promoting technicians within dealership networks. Many are sent to special sites and plants run by the companies in the UK and abroad to test their skills and attain the highest qualifications.



HANDS ON: Hi-tech modern cars like the newly-launched third-generation Skoda Octavia need highly-trained auto technicians to ensure they are running at their best and warranty is maintained properly

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People and prices... well worth knowing

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Service

MOT Available only on the UK mainland	
All models	£39

Minor service Every 12 months or 10,000 miles	
All models	£129

Major service Every 24 months or 20,000 miles	
All models	£249

Maintenance

Brake fluid change	
All models	£45

Rear brake pads & discs	
All models	£189

Cambelt change*	
Fabia	£299
All other models	£349
Plus replacement water pump, if required	£100

Aircon service	
All models	£69

Front brake pads & discs	
Fabia	£189
Other models (not Fabia or vRS)	£209
Fabia vRS / Octavia vRS	£249

Front or rear brake pads	
All models	£99



For ŠKODA vehicles 3 years (from first MOT) up to 10 years old, excluding V6 models. National Pricing is available to customers at participating ŠKODA retailers only. All prices are (where applicable) inclusive of standard parts, labour, oil and VAT and come with a two-year parts and labour warranty. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Further terms and conditions apply, please ask your ŠKODA retailer for details. *Includes cambelt, tensioners and rollers as required.

Caffyns ŠKODA Ashford
Monument Way, Orbital Park,
Ashford, Kent TN24 0HB
01233 220785 www.caffynsskoda.co.uk

www.citroen.co.uk



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[1]Subject to availability of Genuine Citroën Parts or Approved Citroën Parts.
[2]On a Fixed Price Repair the repair must be like-for-like, using Genuine Citroën Parts and within 15 miles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT **WILMOTHS**

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EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Property Manager

To maintain the property portfolio held by Edenbridge Town Council

- To carry out routine building inspections and checks as required.
- Ensure Compliance with Health & Safety and Fire regulations and maintain records of checks carried out and actions taken.
- Develop and monitor the Council's Environmental Management system
- Obtain quotes, for planned and routine maintenance as identified within the 10 year building maintenance program.
- Prepare regular building reports for meetings

It is a part-time permanent post 2 days (15 Hours) a week attracting a salary of £7,182.16 per annum.

The closing date for applications is noon Monday 8 July 2013

Interviews to be held on Monday 15 July

Edenbridge Community Warden (Part Time)

Salary: £10,532 per annum eligible for final salary pension

Location: Edenbridge

Responsible to: Deputy Town Clerk

Edenbridge seeks a person keen to improve the local environment, provide an effective link between residents, agencies, and voluntary organisations, and promote community safety. This role is 3 days a week (22 hours) contract initially until August 2015.

The post requires initiative and working as part of a small team; flexibility to cover some evening and weekend work; ability to keep records; a clean driving licence and being subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure.

Closing date 12 noon 5 July 2013.

For further information and an application form contact 01732 865368 or e-mail townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk
Edenbridge Town Council, Doggetts Barn, 72A High St, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5AR

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

SENIOR STAFF NURSE Two full-time positions

Qualifications Registered Nurse 1st Level. Minimum 2 years post registration/equivalent experience.
Evidence of continual professional development. Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent.
To discuss this opportunity and benefits or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Mary Guarnieri, (Matron) – 01843 234252

ENDOSCOPY SISTER (25 hours per week)

The successful applicant must have a minimum of 3 years post registration (level 1) endoscopy experience with all diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy interventions with at least one year in an endoscopy senior managerial role. He/she must have proven GRS and JAG Accreditation experience, and able to work independently to help meet the national criteria and maintain a clinical 'hands on' approach

ENDOSCOPY PRACTITIONERS (20 hours per week)

We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced, highly motivated endoscopy staff that have a flexible approach to working. Hours will include evening and weekend working. A minimum of 2 years current experience is essential.

To discuss these opportunities and benefits please contact either: **Dennis Sutton, Theatre Liaison Manager 07833 237881** OR **Mary Guarnieri, Matron 01843 234252**

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital, 2nd Floor, Atina House, Bench Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JH
Telephone: **01304 245951** | Fax: **01304 207320** | E-mail: **jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com**
Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website **www.spencerprivatehospitals.com**

Closing date for applications Monday 8 July

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Data & Barring Service Disclosure check

CUMBRIA HOUSE CARE HOME

REQUIRES

P/T CARE ASSISTANTS

EXPERIENCE PREFERRED

MUST HAVE NVQ/QCF LEVEL 2 IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

POST SUBJECT TO ENHANCED CRB CHECKS, COST TO BE MET BY APPLICANT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JULIA ON

01303 254019

DUTY MANAGER

Lordswood Leisure Centre
Salary: Competitive

Lordswood Leisure Centre Charitable Trust is looking for a motivated and enthusiastic individual to become an integral part of the management team.

The role involves managing the day to day operation of the Centre and assisting the senior management team with specific responsibilities. You would be required to work on a shift rota basis that includes early mornings, evenings and weekends so a flexible attitude to working hours is essential.

Candidates with previous experience within a similar role would be advantageous as well as knowledge within a customer-focused environment.

You will be required to work 40 hours per week, Monday to Sunday.

If you believe you have the skills and knowledge required for this position, please send a Cv to **Spencer Grimwade, Operations Director**.

Closing date for applications:
Tuesday 25th June

Interview date: **Wednesday 3rd July**

01634 682862
Lordswood Leisure Centre – Northdane Way, Lordswood, Chatham , Kent, ME5 8YE

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sjwms.co.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 330 in the co-educational Sixth Form

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Pupil Premium Mentor
NJC Grade C2
Range 22 - 31
£19,621 - £26,276 pro rata

If you are enthusiastic, committed and keen to help young people, we have a position that may suit you.

We require a full time Pupil Premium Mentor for 37 hours per week, term time only to start as soon as possible for one year in the first instance. Salary will be NJC C2 point 22.

The post would suit someone who has experience with working with secondary school pupils, possibly qualified to A Level standard, perhaps a HLTA or NQT, with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to relate well to children and adults. If required, training would be given to the right candidate.

The role involves mentoring pupils who benefit from the Pupil Premium Grant to ensure they are supported in their learning and make outstanding progress.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

If you are interested in working for the benefit of bright, talented pupils and have a team ethos, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, email harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications – 1st July 2013

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICE
Grounds Maintenance Contract

Opportunity to declare an interest in tendering for the above contract.

For further information please contact:

Mr R Saffery (Business Manager) at rogersaffery@kingethelbert.kent.sch.uk by 30th June 2013

This contract is subject to site operative staff having passed "Enhanced CRB Disclosure" procedures. King Ethelbert School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

King Ethelbert School, Canterbury Road, Birchington CT7 9BL

Tel: 01843 831999
Fax: 01843 831015

www.kingethelbert.com

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Folkestone

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13
- SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Audit Commission Act 1998, sections 15-16

Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 Regulations 9, 10, 21, 22 & 24

The council's accounts are subject to external audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP of Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, London NW1 2EP. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1) From Monday 8th July 2013 to Friday 2nd August 2013 between 9.00am and 4.30pm weekdays any person may inspect the accounts of the council for the year ended 31 March 2013 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.

2) From Monday 5th August 2013 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the council, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor Emily Hill at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.

3) From Monday 5th August 2013 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the council, or his/her representative, may object to the council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1988). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor Emily Hill at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

Kathryn Beldon, Deputy Chief Executive,
Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY.
Contact telephone no: (01303) 853289

14 June 2013

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND AT Four Elms Road, Edenbridge

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Sevenoaks Magistrates Court on 6th August 2013 at 10:00am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to Four Elms Road as highlighted on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent County Council at Ashford Highways Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund at Kent County Council Highways and Transportation in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

JOHN BURR
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND AT Yardhurst Gardens, Margate

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 30th July 2013 at 10:30am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to Yardhurst Gardens as highlighted on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent County Council at Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund at Kent County Council Highways and Transportation in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

JOHN BURR
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD

PLANNING

Public Notice

23 June 2013

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 No 767

Regulation 18 – Notice of the publication of:

- Canterbury District Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation Draft June 2013
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal

The Local Plan will provide the overall spatial development strategy for the Canterbury District up to 2031. The City Council is inviting members of the public to view and comment on these documents between 20 June and 5pm 30 August 2013.

Copies of the Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and the Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal along with other supporting documents can be viewed at the Council's website **www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy** and during normal office hours at the following locations:

Canterbury City Council (Main Office)
Military Road, Canterbury 8.30am to 5 pm

Herne Bay Divisional Office,
William Street, Herne Bay 8.45am to 4.45pm

Copies are also available to view at:

- Canterbury Library – The Beaney, High Street, Canterbury
- Herne Bay Library – 124 High Street, Herne Bay
- Sturry Library – Chafy Crescent, Sturry
- Swalecliffe Library – 78 Herne Bay Road, Swalecliffe
- Whitstable Library – 31-33 Oxford Street, Whitstable
- The mobile library

Comments can be made:

- online at **http://canterbury-consult.objective.co.uk/portal** or
- by email to **planning.policy@canterbury.gov.uk** using the downloadable comments form or by post to Planning Policy Team, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW.

All comments relating to Canterbury District Local Plan Preferred Option, Sustainability Appraisal or the Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal must be received by 5pm 30 August 2013. The City Council may not be able to consider representations received after this date.

Further information can be obtained from the planning policy team on **01227 862 199** or by emailing **planning.policy@canterbury.gov.uk**

Folkestone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)
(FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND THE BAYLE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012
(AMENDMENT NO 1) (THE LEAS PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order comes into effect on the 28th June 2013 and shall implement the following parking restrictions:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

The Leas; shared use residents parking and pay and display on its south east side, from a point 9.5 metres north east of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace north east for a distance of 124 metres

The Leas; prohibition of waiting at any time on its north west side from its junction with Cheriton Place to its junction with Shakespeare Terrace

The Leas; bus parking place on its south west side from a point 17.5 metres south west of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace, south west for a distance of 15 metres

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

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DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00230	Installation of replacement bay windows and cladding to front elevation **6 Deal Castle Road, Deal, CT14 7BB**	**CON**
DOV/13/00321	Variation of condition 8 of planning permission DOV/06/1002 to allow use of the air conditioning units between the hours Mondays and Tuesdays 8am - 5pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am - 8pm, Fridays 9am - 5pm and Saturdays 9am - 1pm **39 New Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BB**	**CON**
DOV/13/00355	Erection of detached building incorporating a reception and office **Kingsdown International Scout Camp, The Avenue, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8DU**	**ARW**
DOV/13/00404	Installation of solar panels to barn roof **Swanton Farm, Swanton Lane, Lydden, Dover, CT15 7EY**	**ARW**
DOV/13/00411	Erection of a front dormer roof extension and alterations to existing dormer **5 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7JA**	**CON**
DOV/13/00442	Erection of one detached dwelling **Martindale, The Street, Preston, Canterbury, CT3 1DY**	**CAF**
DOV/13/00449	Erection of a first floor extension, two storey extension and single storey extension and associated alterations **Glendale Lodge, Glen Road, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8BS**	**ARW**
DOV/12/00660	Outline application for the erection of 19 dwellings and construction of a vehicular access **100 & 106, Church Lane, Sholden, Deal, CT14 9QL**	**MAJ**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
CAF - Affecting a Conservation Area **CON -** Within a Conservation Area
ARW - Affects Right of Way **MAJ -** Major Development

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/01606/HOUSE **Beau Lodge 31 Langton Road, Broadwater**
- Garden store above existing garage (CA)

13/01565/LBC **Hamilton Cottage Waterloo Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Construction of two shower rooms within internal fabric of the building (works already carried out) (LB)

13/01573/FUL **Flat 2 75 Mount Ephraim, Culverden**
- Creation of external terrace area on existing flat roof, replacement of window with French doors (CA)

13/01587/HOUSE **72 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Replacement fence and gates (CA) (LB)

13/01589/LBC **72 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement fence and gates (LB)

13/01551/LBC **Vine Inn High Street, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations and replacement external ventilation flue (LB)

13/01449/FULMJ **Hawkhurst Castle Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing care home; Erection of a replacement three-storey 90-bed care home (Class C2) with parking and access facilities (MAJOR)

13/01547/HOUSE **Bassetts Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Demolition of an extension as permitted under TW/05/03311/FUL and TW/05/03314/LBC and erection of a replacement single-storey garden room extension (LB)

13/01548/LBC **Bassetts Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of an extension as permitted under TW/05/03311/FUL and TW/05/03314/LBC and erection of a replacement single-storey garden room extension (LB)

13/01563/HOUSE **8 Camden Hill Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Single storey orangery extension, single storey alteration to front porch and changes to fenestration (CA)

13/01601/HOUSE **41 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Extension of Time - Demolition of single storey utility room and shed, the construction of a new single storey replacement; New first floor extension at rear; New shed (TW/04/03185/FUL) (TW/10/01558 refers) (CA)

13/01386/LBC **9 Calverley Park Crescent Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to all floors including removal of existing walls (LB)

13/01543/HOUSE **East House Ferndale House, Park**
- Single-storey front extension including relocation of portico (CA)

13/01624/FUL **16 Crescent Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Change of use to D1 fitness studio (CA)

13/01585/HOUSE **Spring Cottage Victoria Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Garden landscaping works (works commenced) (CA)

13/01569/LBC **Shirley Hall Leggs Lane, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: External and internal repairs. Minor internal alterations (LB)

13/01626/HOUSE **Homefield Barn Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Conversion of garage into study/home office. Erection of stable building (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 June 2013

PLANNING

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0213/SH - The Long Hall Barn Little Densole Farm Canterbury Road Densole Folkestone - Change of use of agricultural land to the keeping of horses, together with the erection of a stable block and menage.

Y13/0534/SH# - Marlie Farm Holiday Village Dymchurch Road New Romney Kent TN28 8UE - Change of use of land to extend static caravan area.

Y13/0560/SH - Orchard House High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Works to trees in a conservation area comprising: crown reduction of a Beech (T1) by reducing the height by 3.5 metres, the laterals by a maximum of 1.5 metres, and crown lift to 4 metres; crown reduction of a Beech (T2) by reducing the height by 3 metres, the laterals by 1.5 metres and crown lift to 4 metres.

Y13/0536/SH+ - Spicers Court Stade Street Hythe Kent CT21 6EB - Proposed 3 No. Skylights to Flat No.8 and 1 No. Sun Tunnel to Flat No.9

Y13/0583/SH# - 106 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9BA - Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission Y13/0121/SH for the extension of time limit of planning permission Y09/1100/SH for the erection of fourteen dwelling houses with associated parking, landscaping and new access road.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 08 JULY 2013

SW/13/0426:
Change of use from A1 (retail) to A2 (financial and professional services) - T.W's, 26 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0452:
Proposed single storey rear extension - 9 Priory Row, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0492:
Listed Building consent to paint brickwork at front of property to match sides and rear - Lion House, 100 High Street, NEWINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0658:
Variation to Condition 16 (hours of use) to extend hours of opening - Dunster House Ltd, Staplestreet Road, GRAVENEY; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0666:
Application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission SW/12/0571 for minor material amendments to the design and layout of the proposal - Aesica Queenborough Ltd, North Road, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASONS 1, 3, 4 & 6**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00997/FUL: Newnham Barn, Grove Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1SQ Retention of all alterations to barn dwelling.
Applicant: Ms L Stevens Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//13/01002/LB: Newnham Barn, Grove Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1SQ Retention of alterations to barn dwelling. **Applicant: Ms L Stevens** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/01068/FUL: 19 Puckle Lane, Canterbury, CT1 3LA Provision of dormer to roof and construction of new entrance porch.
Applicant: Mr J Hunt and Mrs S Wilding Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01074/FUL: Land adjacent to 62 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3JH Two-storey dwelling with garden and parking.
Applicant: Mr S Howard Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01075/FUL: Scouts Hall, 65-67 Arkley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SL Replacement of windows and doors from metal and wood to upvc.
Applicant: Mr C Mears Reason: Conservation Area.
CA//13/01082/FUL: 65 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DX Single-storey rear extension with associated internal alterations.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Welch Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01084/LB: Dane Chantry Barn, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PP Re-submission of application CA/12/01609/LB for a single window to be added to the west elevation. **Applicant: Mrs E Cumming** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/01094/FUL: 7 Gladstone Road, Whitstable, CT5 1JG Two storey rear extension and internal alterations.
Applicant: Mr Ricketts and Mr Yare Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01107/FUL: 39 St Augustine's Road, Canterbury, CT1 1XR Proposed enlargement of existing attic room and rear single-storey extension. **Applicant: Mr N Warnick** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01114/FUL Woodside Lodge, Garlinge Green Road, Garlinge Green, Petham CT4 5RT Proposed two-storey rear extension and proposed garage with ancillary accommodation above. Demolition of existing outbuilding. **Applicant: Mrs S Bishop** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 15 July 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 21 June 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0886/S - 41 & 56, VALLEY DRIVE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9TL - Demolition of 41 & 56 Valley Drive and the erection of 7No. detached houses with garaging/parking, gated private access road with a dropped kerb access to plot 1 via private drive; and site landscaping. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0915/S - BLENHEIM GATE, QUEENS HOUSE, FENNEL CLOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0SZ - Removal of lead ridge details to 4no small bin stores and 2no pavilion style bin stores and replacement with slate grey concrete ridge tiles. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0916/S - BLENHEIM GATE, QUEENS HOUSE, FENNEL CLOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0SZ - Listed building consent for the removal of lead ridge details to 4no small bin stores and 2no pavilion style bin stores and replacement with slate grey concrete ridge tiles. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0951/N - LAND NORTH OF, SUTTON ROAD, OTHAM, KENT - Full application for residential development of 186 dwellings comprising a mixture of 2, 3 ,4 and 5 bedroom properties with associated parking, landscaping, amenity space and engineering works. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/0961/S - THE WILD DUCK, PAGEHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9LH - Demolition of existing public house and erection of 2no detached dwellings with associated amenity space, garages and access. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/0963/S - 10, LOWER FANT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8EA - An application for listed building consent for various works including internal alterations, changes to fenestration, works to fireplaces and damp-proofing of cellar. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0967/S - WARES FARM, REDWALL LANE, LINTON, KENT, ME17 4BA - Removal of condition 2 of planning permission 11/0119 to allow permanent use of land for agriculture, model car racing and model aircraft flying. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/13/0973/S - KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE, THE GODLANDS, STRAW MILL HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XB - Extend existing overflow car park to provide an additional 40 parking spaces for use by employees and visitors to SHQ. Improvements to pedestrian walkways, lighting and bin and refuse storage. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0974/N - FOUR JAYS GROUP, BARLING FARM, EAST SUTTON ROAD, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DX - Change of use of land to temporary seasonal car park from the 1st April to 30 September in any calendar year including construction of a modular reinforced grass surface and landscaping. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0976/S - MOUNTAIN BARN, MARDEN ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9PZ - Listed building consent for the conversion of roofspace comprising the installation of rooflights and internal alterations including the installation of new staircase, reposition of first floor door, removal of ground floor partition and construction of new ground floor partition to form new study. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0977/S - MOUNTAIN BARN, MARDEN ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9PZ - Conversion of roofspace comprising the installation of rooflights. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0981/S - 1, CHURCH VILLAS, CHURCH STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BX - Replacement of tarmac driveway with cobblestone driveway. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0985/S - HEADCORN AERODROME, SHENLEY ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9HX - Variation of condition 7 of MA/77/1559 to hold an air display (Royal Aero Club Flying Event) on 8th September 2013. **Reason: 7, 10**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.
10 - Application is of general Public Interest.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **7th July 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated**: 23rd June 2013.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AE648 AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE345

IN THE PARISHES OF SEVINGTON AND KINGSNORTH

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AE648 AND PUBLIC FOOPTATH AE345
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway AE648 between its junction with Waterbrook Avenue and its junction with Public Bridleway AW325 and Public Footpath AE345 between its junction with Public Bridleway AE648 and its junction with Public Footpath AE658, from the 8th July 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 23rd June 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

BRISSENDEN GREEN LANE, BETHERSDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a culvert and repairs to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brissenden Green Lane, Bethersden, as follows.

Brissenden Green Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Standard Lane, with no through access.

The closure is planned to commence from 8 July 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Standard Lane, A28 Ashford Road and Woodchurch Road.

B2080 READING STREET, TENTERDEN & TENTERDEN ROAD, APPLEDORE (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on sections of the B2080 Reading Street, Tenterden and Tenterden Road, Appledore, as shown below.

The sections of the B2080 affected are Reading Street from the vicinity of The Century Farm extending southwards and eastwards along the B2080 to where it becomes Tenterden Road, eastwards as far as the junction with School Road / Ferry Road, in both directions.

The Speed Limit applies to the actual sections of roads within the extents defined above that are indicated by the relevant 30 mph signs on site.

Works are planned to commence from 29 June 2013 for up to 2 days, between 08:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day, but this may need to be extended for a further day if factors prevent works being completed in 2 days.

The 30 mph speed limit may need to be re-imposed within 1-2 weeks of the above dates to allow for replacement of lining.

Please note that the 30 mph speed limit now replaces the need for the road closure that was initially publicised.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

BEST LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow remedial carriageway works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Best Lane, Canterbury, as shown below.

Best Lane will be closed between High Street and the entrance to Orange Street Car Park.

The closure is planned to commence from 8 July 2013 for up to 1 week, or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via High Street, Guildhall Street and Orange Street.

KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to divert a sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of King Street, Canterbury, on or after 24 June 2013, as shown below.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Knotts Lane and Palace Street.

The alternative routes are via King Street, Orange Street and Palace Street or via Knotts Lane, St Radigund's Street, Pound Lane, The Causeway, North Lane, St Stephen's Road, Kingsmead Road, Northgate and Borough.

Works are planned to commence from 24 June 2013 for an estimated period of up to 6 weeks.

PUCKLE LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electrical connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Puckle Lane, Canterbury, on or after 24 June 2013, as shown below.

Works are planned to commence from 24 June 2013 for an estimated period of up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Puckle Lane will be closed between the junctions with Prospect Place and Raymond Avenue.

The alternative route is via Puckle Lane, Nunnery Fields and Old Dover Road.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Puckle Lane, between the junctions with Raymond Avenue and Old Dover Road, to allow access.

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JULY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable carriageway repairs to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads throughout the Canterbury area, from 1 July 2013.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

It will not generally be possible to re-open roads outside normal working hours, except where otherwise stated.

EDDINGTON LANE (LINK), HERNE BAY – the short section linking Eddington Lane and A2990 (Old) Thanet Way will be closed

1 – 6 July 2013 (including Saturday)

Alternative route via A2990 (Old) Thanet Way and Eddington Way

PETT HILL, BRIDGE – closed for its entire length

1 & 2 July 2013

Alternative route via Station Road, High Street, Western Avenue, Saxon Road and Union Road

HAWE LANE, STURRY – closed for its entire length

2 – 4 July 2013

Alternative route via Popes Lane, A291 Herne Bay Road, Sturry Hill, A28 Island Road and Babs Oak Hill

HOMEWOOD ROAD, STURRY – closed for its entire length

4 – 6 July 2013 (including Saturday) NB Homewood Road will not be closed until Hawe Lane has re-opened.

Alternative route via Cedar Road, Sleigh Road and A28 Island Road

RABBIT HOLE, BARHAM – closed between the junctions with Brickfield Road and Church Lane

8 – 20 July 2013 (excluding Sunday – works may extend to Saturday of 20 July if need be)

Alternative route via Mill Lane, Derringstone Hill, Valley Road, The Street and Church Lane

WILLIAM STREET, HERNE BAY – closed between High Street and Queens Street

8 – 15 July 2013 (excluding Sunday)

Alternative routes are

Approaching from west via High Street, South Road and Kings Road

Approaching from east via High Street, Richmond Street and Kings Road

DIAMOND ROAD, WHITSTABLE – closed for its entire length

8 – 20 July 2013 (excluding Sunday – works may extend to Saturday of 20 July if need be)

Alternative route via Cromwell Road, Railway Avenue and Station Road

SWANTON LANE, LITTLEBOURNE–closed for its entire length

8 – 11 July 2013

Alternative route via Elbridge Hill, Stodmarsh Road and A257 Littlebourne Road

OXFORD ROAD, CANTERBURY – closed for its entire length

11 – 15 July 2013 (excluding Sunday) between 08:30 hours and 15:30 hours

Alternative route via Guildford Road, Zealand Road, Nunnery Road

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

CANNON STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the workforce and public during site construction works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting waiting on part of Cannon Street, Deal, on or after 24 June 2013, for up to 15 months.

Waiting will be prohibited on the southern side of Cannon Street from the eastern boundary of number 23 westwards to the entrance to the Outdowns Medical Centre.

This applies Mondays to Fridays between the hours of 09:00 hours and 17:30 hours.

COOPER STREET DROVE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the replacement of a culvert and other drainage works to alleviate long term flooding issues, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Cooper Street Drove, Ash, on or after 24 June 2013, as shown below.

Works are planned to commence from 24 June 2013 for an estimated period of up to 1 week.

Cooper Street Drove will be closed in the vicinity of the sharp bend to the north of Brookestreet Farmyard. Access will remain from either direction up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via A257 Sandwich Road, A257 Each End, Ash Road, Richborough Road and Cooper Street Drove.

KING STREET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway renewal works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street, Sandwich, as follows.

King Street will be closed between the junctions with Austin's Lane and St Peter's Street.

The closure is planned to commence from 8 July 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via No Name Street, Cattle Market, Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street and Short Street.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

NORTH STREET, BARMING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a manhole cover and frame, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Street, Barming, on or after 10 July 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A26 Tonbridge Road and Heath Road.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Beverley Road, Heath Road.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

BOTSOM LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the removal of dead wood from trees overhanging the highway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Botsom Lane, West Kingsdown, on or after 10th July 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Carter Avenue and Maplescombe Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: London Road, Main Road Gorse Hill, A225 Eysnford Road, Maplescombe Lane.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

A259 DYMCHURCH ROAD, ST MARY'S BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction modification works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on part of A259 Dymchurch Road, St Mary's Bay, as follows.

A259 Dymchurch Road, St Mary's Bay will be closed to through traffic for up to 150 metres either side of the junction with Dunstall Lane.

Closures are planned for the nights of 10 and 11 July 2013 between 19:00 hours through until 07:00 hours each night

Further closures are planned for the nights of 15 and 16 July 2013, also between 19:00 hours through until 07:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via A259 Dymchurch Road, High Street, Lydd Road, Rhee Wall, A2070 Hamstreet Bypass, Ashford Road, Main Road, Barrow Hill, Ashford Road, A261 Hythe Road, London Road, A259 Military Road (westbound only), Dymchurch Road, Hythe Road, High Street and Dymchurch Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

PICTON ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new pumping station, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Picton Road, Ramsgate, on or after 24 June 2013 for an estimated period of up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Grange Road.

The alternative route is via Grange Road, South Eastern Road and Crescent Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

HIGH STREET, AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway works and carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Aylesford, on or after 14 July 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Bull Lane to Church Walk.

The alternative route is via Rochester Road, Pilgrims Way, Bull Lane.

A20 LONDON ROAD, STATION ROAD, NEW ROAD, DITTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING, SPEED RESTRICTION, SUSPENSION OF CYCLE LANE, PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN & PROHIBITION OF PARKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of mains laying, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road and New Road and various prohibitions on A20 London Road, Ditton, on or after 8 July 2013 or until the works have been completed.

8th July 2013 for a period of 17 weeks–A20 London Road:

20mph speed limit between Bell Lane and 350m east of Station Road

Cycle Lane suspension between Orchard Grove and 350m east of Station Road

Closure of eastbound slip road between Station Road and A20 London Road and prohibition of left turn from Station Road

Prohibition of parking in A20 layby between numbers 543 and 551

25th July 2013 for a period of up to 6 weeks – Station Road and New Road:

Closure of New Road and Station Road at their junctions with A20 London Road

The alternative route for Station Road is via Hall Road and A20 London Road and for New Road is via A20 London Road and Woodlands Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 30th June 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

CRICKET



Being a rugby fan meant cricket's big names didn't intimidate me

KOS Media has teamed up with Kent batsman Michael Powell for a column throughout the 2013 season in which the Welshman will give an unrivalled insight into life on and off the pitch with the county.

I HAVE spent the last few weeks with the second team, which is disappointing, but I see it as part of my role of being at the club.

When I came to the county I saw it as part of my job here to pass on my experience to the younger players.

I remember when I first got my chance at Glamorgan – it was because Tony Cottey went down to Sussex, making space for me in the first team.

When I got into the first team, people helped me out, very much like happens at Kent with the likes of Daniel Bell-Drummond being guided by the big core of senior players we have – people like Rob Key and James Tredwell.

What helped me out a lot was the fact that I wasn't a cricket fan as a youngster. It meant I wasn't overawed by the star England cricketers I was playing against. It didn't faze me.

Being Welsh, I much preferred my rugby when I was growing up and followed it more. But I was much better at cricket – that's why I became a cricketer.

I did play rugby for my college and a youth team, where a lot of my friends went on to play professional rugby, but I was never good enough. It was never an option.

It was all about the Six Nations in my house when I was growing up rather than the Ashes, which this year I think England will win comfortably. The Australian team today doesn't compare to the one I remember of Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and the Waugh brothers.

When I got into the first team at Glamorgan, I didn't worry about coming up against the likes of Mark Ramprakash, Devon Malcolm or Michael Atherton. It wasn't like 'Oh my word, I'm up against Darren Gough, or Andy Caddick', or any of those great bowlers.

I learnt to play the ball rather than the bowler. That's the advice I would give to younger players. It's just a bat and ball, like it is in the second team.

That approach helped me massively. Little things like going out to play in front of big crowds. I didn't see it as a distraction – I enjoyed it. Things that can play on a younger player's mind didn't seem to have an effect on me.

As soon as I got my debut out of the way I was happy to say I was a professional cricketer. It was each game or each season at it comes. I never wanted to get carried away.

The thing is, you do have to cope with the better deliveries. It all happens a bit quicker – that's why it's harder.

We have got some very good youngsters at Kent. Undoubtedly, they will get their chance if they score enough runs or take enough wickets. That's the kind of club Kent are – they like to develop youngsters.

TENNIS

UK tennis slammed as 'a rich man's sport' by psychologist

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FOR the next two weeks Andy Murray will be hoisted on to a pedestal of expectation, with many of us set to go Wimbledon crazy, but there are serious questions about the support in place to help the next generation of British players.

The governing body for the sport in the UK, the Lawn Tennis Association, will lose its chief executive Roger Draper in September after he decided to quit the £640,000-a-year post.

It has come under increasing criticism in recent years for the lack of talent coming through behind Murray and for the sizeable salaries the likes of Draper are on.

One man who knows Murray, and the problems facing those trying to keep up with him, is Roberto Forzoni.

The sports psychologist from Orpington has worked with Premier League football clubs, athletics stars and tennis pros to help improve performance. In 2009 he helped Murray overcome a wrist injury and gave him renewed mental strength when working with a new coach. It was part of a two-year spell he spent as the LTA's performance consultant.

The 53-year-old hopes that whoever replaces Draper when he leaves in September will bring about a new way of thinking.

"I look forward to seeing what happens when the new regime takes over," he said. "I don't think they [the LTA methods] are conducive to producing high-performance players. Their track record is not very good. The LTA has a lot of old-school people who have been there for a number of years. It's a rich people's sport."

Ahead of Wimbledon, he is working with British No 2, and England's No 1, James Ward.

"Someone like James gets around £12,000 a year from the LTA – that's to travel and look after himself," he said. "They are not looked after by the LTA when compared with, say, young footballers. He hasn't even got a coach at the moment.

"I also work in athletics, and there's very little money and there is very little expectation for support. With football, if you're a non-league or academy player, pretty much everything is paid for in terms of training, competition, kit, support and travel.

Picture: TOM LOVELOCK/AELTC



CRITICISM: The Lawn Tennis Association has been under fire for failing to develop its talented players

Believe it or not, the winner of the first-ever Wimbledon Championships is a former Ramsgate resident.

William Spencer Gore became champion in 1877. A total of 22 men paid £1 and 1 shilling entrance fee (no women were allowed) and were told to bring their own rackets and shoes without heels.

Spectators watched from a temporary three-plank stand and around the court as Spencer beat William Marshall 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. He returned the following year to defend his crown but lost in the final to Frank Hadlow 7-5, 6-1, 9-7.

He died at The Granville Hotel in Ramsgate in 1906 aged 56.

"The argument against it is that the Russians and Slovakians do OK [at tennis], but they haven't got the LTA, who have a hell of a lot of money and you would have to question where the money goes if it is not to support our top players."

Forzoni, who last season was manager of Ryman One South side Tooting & Mitcham, feels that Murray is better equipped than ever to cope with the pressure at the championships.

"There are a lot of young footballers who think they have made it, earning money and being flash with it, but Andy's not like that – he's quite down to earth," he said. "He can detach himself from all of it. If fit, he is highly likely for the final or semi of slams now.

"He lives close to Wimbledon and so can go home every day – he can help himself minimize the pressure of expectation by not reading the papers or watching too much TV coverage during the championships.

"There is no other British tennis player who comes close to him, although James [Ward] is on his way.

"When he was younger, he was so talented that he didn't have to work as hard as others to succeed. But when he worked on his fitness, it improved his ability. If you look at his record, he has improved every single year."

SPORTS SHORTS

FOOTBALL

Fleet to spend £100K on refurbishing home

WORK is set to start on refurbishing Ebbsfleet United's Stonebridge Road home with £100,000 set to be spent by the new owner.

The Conference South side were taken over by Kuwaiti investment group KEH Sports Ltd last month, paving the way for new players, a new manager in former Dover Athletic coach Steve Brown, work on the pitch and now the stadium. The club will spend £100,000 on replacing the two roofs on the Plough End and the Liam Daish Stand while working on tidying up other areas of the ground.

Director Stuart Butler-Gallie said: "If we want to attract fans back to the club, it is essential that significant improvements are made."

SPEEDWAY

Kings fend off Raiders to secure maiden win

THE Kent Kings have finally won their first match of the season, recording a 58-35 victory over Rye House Raiders.

The Kings suffered a double loss over the weekend, losing to Coventry Storm 59-33 in the National League on Friday night and 53-34 to the Mildenhall Fen Tigers on Sunday in the National Trophy.

However, they bounced back on Monday night at the Central Park Stadium in Sittingbourne to secure their first win of the season, in the first leg of the Tunnel Trophy.

Mark Baldock, drafted in to replace the released Sam Woods, is out after breaking his collar bone, meaning Woods is back at the club.

ATHLETICS

Teen sprinters lead the way at meeting

ADAM Gemili and Dina Asher-Smith led the way for Kent athletes at the national under-20 and under-23 championships.

Gemili won both the 100m and the 200m in the U23 age group at Bedford last weekend. The 19-year-old from Dartford posted a new personal best of 20.30s in the long distance and ran 10.09s in the shorter distance.

His times were easily fast enough to qualify for a place at the World Athletics Championships in Russia in August.

His fellow Blackheath and Bromley Athletics Club team-mate Asher-Smith, 17, also blazed a trail in the sprints, winning both the 100m and 200m in the U20 age group.

FOOTBALL

Home comforts for Scally as Gills given tasty start

Gills chairman Paul Scally talks fixtures and transfers with **Greg Miles** as deal is tied up

GILLINGHAM fans can start planning the next year of their lives, with the fixtures giving the League Two champions an exciting start.

Last season the Gills started their promotion campaign in fine form by sweeping Bradford City aside 3-1 at Priestfield.

Now back in League One, they are set for a bumper first month with a home opener against Colchester United as well as trips to relegated Wolves and old rivals Swindon Town to look forward to.

The crucial festive period has also been kind to Martin Allen's men, with three home games out of four matches across December, while the season also finishes at home, against Shrewsbury.

For the hardcore travelling fans, the furthest they will have to go for a Tuesday-night fixture is Notts County, with the other midweek away matches at Stevenage, Walsall and MK Dons. There are three at home under the floodlights.

Home matches against the 'big' sides come in the second half of the season with relegated Wolves visiting on January 4, followed by Sheffield United (February 15) and Coventry City (March 11).

It is all that Gills chairman Paul Scally could have hoped for, he said.

"It's very exciting – it's six weeks until the start of the season. The last two weeks of May and June have been very quiet. We have been forced to watch cricket and other things like that. It's always a dead time. People are on holiday as well.

"We all look forward to the day they come out. Having got them, I'm very excited.

"Having an opening home game and closing home game is what we want. Colchester United is a great start for us, and to have Wolves in our second game, and away, is good.

"It's a good time to play them – they will not be sure what to expect. It is their first home game as well, so the pressure is on. It's also a good time to play Brentford and we can get the Swindon one out of the way early on and focus on the rest of the season."

The last time the Gills were in League One for the 2009/10 season they got off to a flying start, thrashing Swindon 5-0 at Priestfield. This year's opening opposition, Colchester, now managed by former Gillingham defender Joe Dunne, have been an opening-day fixture before.

That came back in 2005/06 when Andrew Crofts and Darren Byfield were on target as the Gills won 2-1 at Priestfield.

The last 10 seasons have been largely successful on the opening day, with just two defeats suffered in that time.

Both came away, in 2004/05 at Ipswich (2-1) and at Cheltenham in 07/08 (1-0). The Gills have played the latter three times on the curtain-raiser in the last decade.

FUTURES DECIDED

GILLINGHAM defender Andy Frampton is set to leave the club for AFC Wimbledon, while Joe Martin has signed a new two-year deal.

The duo, as well as striker Deon Burton, with whom talks are ongoing, were out of contract at the club this summer.

Frampton, 33, the former club captain under Andy Hessenthaler, joined in July 2011. Gills chairman Paul Scally said he had been offered a contract .

"He's a great lad. I have got no doubt he will be back at Gillingham one day in a coaching role," said Scally. "He couldn't have turned down Wimbledon's offer. He will play a lot more for them than for us.

"We haven't been able to speak to him, but we have spoken to his agent. We were going to offer him a one-year deal."

Scally said there was never any doubt that Martin would sign and added that talks were ongoing with Burton, 36.

"We are still talking to Burton's agent," he said. "I feel things will happen in the next two to three weeks."

Fixture highlights

August 3	**Colchester United**	Home
League One season opener		
August 10	**Wolves**	Away
August 24	**Swindon**	Away
Boxing Day	**Leyton Orient**	Home
May 3	**Shrewsbury**	Home
League One last game		

Picture: ADY KERRY



EXCITED: Paul Scally is pleased with the fixtures

MOTORSPORT

No complacency for Byrne as title holder tightens grip on BSB lead

DESPITE having already bagged seven podiums this season, Shane Byrne is well aware he needs to be on top of his game if he is to make history in the British Superbike Championship.

The 36-year-old from Sittingbourne has been in imperious form so far, rubber-stamping his authority on the series last weekend with a double win at Knockhill in Scotland.

That double extended his lead at the top of the riders' championship to 30 points, but with the season just short of the halfway mark he is well aware he needs to stay on top of his game.



Picture: ANDY KELLY

LEAD: Byrne is ahead in the BSB rider standings

"It was a good day at the office. It was pretty difficult in some respects, but the races went OK," he said. "I have had six wins, a third and a crash. Obviously, I would like to leave the crash out of the equation, and the third was my mistake as I was going for the win. So in eight races it's not too bad so far. I'm very happy."

While he is riding well now, it all comes down to the final three Showdown rides, where the top six riders form a mini league to fight it out for the title in the last three rounds.

It was in that stage last season that Byrne catapulted to the top of the standings and rode away with the championship. In doing so he matched Ryuichi Kiyonari's record of three titles and was just short of the record 43 race wins, one he has now passed.

"It's very important to not be complacent – we have got to continue improving," he said. "We need to work hard and continue pushing as hard as we can to get where we need to be.

"You can't win the championship until the last three runs, but you can give yourself a bit of a kick going into them.

"When I won it last year I was almost happier with the triple win at Brands Hatch than the title. I don't want to match anybody. Right now I'm the most successful rider ever – I now have 47 races wins and Kiyo has 43."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Duo exit Fleet as Gate get Walsh

THE revolving door at **Ebbsfleet United** has continued to turn, with Nathan Elder swapping Stonebridge Road for **Dover Athletic**.

The big striker netted 15 goals last season in the Conference Premier and becomes Chris Kinnear's third summer signing.

Fleet utility man Phil Walsh has also left, signing for Ryman Premier side **Margate.** He made 35 appearances last term.

Elsewhere in the Conference South, **Tonbridge Angels** have added a striker to their ranks, with former Crystal Palace forward Nathaniel Pinney, 21, joining.

Ryman Premier new boys **Maidstone United** have re-signed former Gillingham youngster Alex Brown on a one-year deal. He joined initially on loan last year before penning a permanent contract until the end of the season.

Picture: ADY KERRY



MOVING ON: Elder joins Dover

CRICKET

Deadly Stevens fires Kent into the record books

KENT became world-record-holders this week thanks to an epic fightback against Sussex in the Yorkshire Bank 40.

The Spitfires chased down the Sharks' 336-5 to win with nine balls remaining. It surpassed the best 40-over total set in May 2010, when Sussex were again on the wrong end of a run chase, the Unicorns reaching their target of 326 in the CB40 at Arundel.

It was thanks to another huge knock from Darren Stevens, who hit the fastest century of the season so far, reaching his ton from 44 balls. That is just 14 balls more than Chris Gayle's record set last month.

Picture: ADY KERRY



GLORY: Stevens rejoices after his ton

He eventually went for 118, while his partner Sam Northeast crashed 115 as the Spitfires edged to victory with three wickets remaining. The winning run came from a wide.

The victory moved Kent into second place in Group A of the competition, behind Nottinghamshire.

On the international stage James Tredwell has hit the headlines once again for his exploits with England. The Kent captain put in a man-of-the-match performance, taking three wickets to help propel England to the ICC Champions Trophy final.

Tredwell has also been selected for the T20 squad for the two-match series against New Zealand this week, with the games taking place at The Oval on Tuesday and Thursday.

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